Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, rate your level of confidence in President Barack Obama's ability to revive the flagging U.S. economy.

1	19
2	10
3	23
4	17
5	37

Sunday, January 25, 2009

118 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

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Oxen Year

Kung Hei Fat Choi! to the Lunar New Year, which ushers in the Year of the Ox.

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The Brazilian model, 20-year-old beauty queen Mariana Bridi, who lost her both hands and feet to a urinary track infection, has died.

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US govt: NMI changing its arguments

"The CNMI attempts in its opposition to reframe all of its alleged injuries as injuries to the CNMI's right to self-governance. ...The court should not accept the CNMI's last-minute re-casting of the harms alleged as injuries to self-governance."

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Lawyers for the U.S. government have once again asked a federal court to dismiss the CNMI's lawsuit against federalization, saying the Commonwealth has changed its argument from one of economic harm to a breach of self-governance.

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THROWN OFF HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Two men sustain injuries after being thrown off their motorcycle when it hit a sedan heading north in front of Roshi's store in Oleai Saturday morning. Witnesses immediately called police and ambulance to attend to the injured individuals. Here, police assist the two victims.

Fitial commits CIP funds for run-down GTC bldgs.

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will continue the renovation of the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, committing to reprogram 702 monies for the school to replace the grant funds that it was supposed to get.

Fitial

Fitial, who was in the U.S. mainland Friday, said in an e-mail that when the Board of Education submitted the list of projects for classroom repair in 2008, the list included $66,000 for GTC.

He said CIP coordinator Vicky Villagomez prepared a reprogramming request totaling $1.2 million for the repair

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Body said found in San Roque

Police checking whether remains is missing Matubis

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police found Saturday afternoon a body and investigators are looking into the possibility that it may be the missing Filipino surveyor, Alex Matubis.

At least two police officers confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that a body was in-

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CHC nurses angling for US work visas

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Foreign nurses and other employees at the Commonwealth Health Center fear losing their job once the federal government takes over local immigration by June 1, but they are hopeful that Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez will ease their wor-

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CULTURAL PRIDE HAIDEE EUGENIO

Students of Hopwood Junior High School show off their woven headgear made from young coconut leaves during Thursday's celebration of Cultural Week. ***See story on Page 4.***

Local

NMI insurance firms incur $6.8M in direct losses

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Insurance firms incurred $6.8 million in direct losses but wrote $20.1 million in direct premiums for property and casualty in 2007, Insurance Commissioner Michael J. Ada said in a Jan. 8, 2009, report to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Legislature.

Ada, who is also the Commerce secretary, said 2007 marked the fourth year in which surety companies issuing labor bonds are required to retain a certain percentage of premiums collected from the sale of labor bonds into an established escrow account.

The retention rate that year was 20 percent, and a total of $206,929 was retained that period.

In the 32-page report, Ada noted a 20-percent drop in direct premiums written—from 25.3 million in 2006 to $20.1 million in 2007.

Insurance companies also saw a 24-percent decrease in direct losses, from $8.9 million to $6.8 million in 2007.

Of the five alien insurers, Dongbu Insurance Co. Ltd. wrote the biggest direct premiums at $2.035 million and incurred $1.142 million in direct losses.

Among domestic insurers, Century Insurance Co. Ltd. posted the most in direct premiums written at $6.616 million and $2.6 million in direct losses incurred.

2007 was also the year when American International Assurance Company (Bermuda) Limited withdrew as an alien insurer, and no certificate of authorization was granted to any alien insurer.

300 percent raise in capitalization

The 20th annual report of the insurance commissioner pointed out that no action had been taken on two of its previous legislative recommendations – an increase in capitalization and reinsurance.

"It is the intent of the insurance commissioner to renew legislative interests and initiative in this re-submission," Ada said.

The insurance commissioner wants the minimum capitalization to transact a class of insurance to be increased from the current $25,000 to $100,000 "to ensure that sufficient and adequate reserves are maintained by an insurer in the event substantial losses are experienced early in its operations."

Ada also seeks to be granted further authority to require reinsurers to file reinsurance treaties and to be able to review and approve such filings. The Commonwealth Insurance Act's current provisions only provide for the admission or approval of reinsurers in the CNMI prior to engaging in business.

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner, which is under the Department of Commerce, licensed and regulated five alien carriers including AIOI Insurance Co. Ltd., MSIG Insurance (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., Dongbu Insurance Co. Ltd., The Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co.. Ltd., and The Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co. Ltd.

It also licensed and regulated 16 domestic carriers – including Century Insurance Co. Ltd., Equitable Insurance Co. Inc., Island Insurance & Surety Corp., Marianas Insurance Co. Ltd., Oceania Insurance Corp. and Traders Insurance Co.—and 40 foreign carriers in 2007.

The 40 foreign insurers included Aetna Life & Casualty (Bermuda) Ltd., Centurion Casualty Co., Federal Insurance Co., Fidelity & Deposit Co. of Maryland, First Net Insurance Co., Liberty Insurance Corp., Lincoln National Life Insurance Co., Pacific Indemnity Insurance Co., and TakeCare Insurance Co. Inc.

CDA records 7 active QC recipients

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority on Friday disclosed that the CNMI Qualifying Certificate program has a total of seven active recipients to date.

CDA economic development analyst Carline B. Sablan said 13 companies were issued qualifying certificates since the inception of the tax incentive program in 2000.

There were three companies that were granted the tax break in 2002: SandCastle Saipan on Jan. 11; Tinian Dynasty Casino & Hotel, on Aug. 7; and Hard Rock Café, Sept. 20.

CDA noted only one active QC recipient in the second year of the program: Tony Roma's & Caprissiosa, which got its QC on May 7, 2003.

Still receiving benefits from the program are Saipan World Resort, which got the certificate in 2005, and Bridge Capital LLC, which got it in November 2006.

Saipan Laulau Development Inc., the investor behind the $70 million Laolao Resort project, was the last firm granted a qualifying certificate on Sept. 26 last year.

A qualifying certificate was issued to We Manage Call Inc. for a proposed call center business in November 2005 but plans did not push through. The company cited the uncertainties of federalization, the minimum wage hike, and economic status of the island.

A proposed business must start in two years as granted by the qualifying certificate and, unless the firm requests an extension or renewal, the certificate is considered in default, invalid or inactive upon the expiration of two years.

Saipan Tribune learned that QC recipients are classified inactive if they back out from infusing the promised investments, do not agree to the conditions and requirements, or surrender the certificate.

Companies that belong to this category include Spring Water Inc., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Rota Resort & Country Club, Dai-ichi Hotel, and Saipan World Resort.

Spring Water Inc. was granted the QC benefits in October 2002 for its promised $1.6 million investment on Rota while Hyatt Regency did not agree to certain conditions of the QC for its proposed $20.5 million expansion and renovation project.

A qualifying certificate was also issued to SNM Corp. of the Rota Resort & Country Club, which surrendered the certificate due to a change in its management. Rota Resort's promised investment amounted to $93 million.

Tax breaks granted to Asia Pacific Hotels Inc. dba Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach on March 18, 2004, is also considered inactive as the company did not accept the QC indicating an investment proposal of $32.5 million.

South Laulau Beach red-flagged

The Division Of Environment Quality has raised a red flag in South Laulau Beach after samples collected from the site were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

The agency advises the public not to fish or swim within 30 feet of this site for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said enterococci can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Marine Water Quality Reports are provided at www.deq.gov.mp and http://www.cnmi-coralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an email to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

IN POSSIBLE INCLUSION TO ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN:

FAA asks CPA for list of priority projects

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is optimistic the CNMI will be included in the economic stimulus plan being developed by the Obama administration following a site visit by Federal Aviation Administration officials last week.

CPA executive director Efrain Camacho disclosed that FAA officials were on a two-day visit to the island last week.

"They were here to tell us what may be ahead in terms of funding, with the proposed economic stimulus plan of the U.S. administration," Camacho said.

He disclosed that FAA had asked CPA to identify and prepare a list of priority projects that could be funded by the economic stimulus plan.

Camacho described his meeting with federal officials as "very, very positive" but declined to provide more details.

He said the FAA officials had also visited Guam, Palau and Micronesian islands. Like the CNMI, a similar list of priority projects were asked of them.

Camacho said the CNMI will seek funding for the airport runway rehabilitation, which may cost $15 million to $25 million.

"This is a very critical project…and we will ask FAA to consider it in the economic stimulus plan," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the existing runway needs a "quick" repair to ensure smooth operations at the airport.

Camacho said other CPA projects included on the "list" is the repair of the public address system for Saipan International Airport, which also need full rehabilitation, as well as the utility upgrades for the CNMI three airports on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

In a report to the CPA board of directors, Camacho stated that FAA has been faithful in assisting the CNMI in providing funds for important projects.

Recently, repairs of the two main backup generator at the airport were completed using FAA funds. It also approved grants for the third backup generator and some other components that may reach $6.8 million in total cost.

"The FAA-funded project for one more 1.8 megawatt generator as well as three other generators for the [ARFF] armed rescue firefighter is underway with project completion dates of late 2009 or early 2010," Camacho's report stated.

Territorial reps ask Congress for their share in stimulus package

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, has joined with territorial delegates in asking the U.S. Senate and House to include separate funding for territories in the stimulus package now being drafted in Congress, according to American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega.

In letters dated Jan. 22, 2008, to House Committee on Appropriations chair Dave Obey and ranking member Jerry Lewis, and also to Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Sen. Thad Cochran, chairman and ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Rahall joined territorial delegates in expressing their concern that no separate funding has been provided for the Office of Insular Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior to address the needs of the territories.

"While we are appreciative that the appropriators have provided for a 20 percent increase in Medicaid caps, we are disappointed that there is no appropriation for the [OIA] to provide for infrastructure projects in the territories. In working with the Obama transition team, we had hoped that specific infrastructure funding for the territories would be included since the transition team requested a list of "shovel-ready" projects which would be most beneficial in providing economic opportunities for those living in the territories of the United States. While these proposals were submitted, regrettably none were included in the bill that was marked-up by the Committee on Appropriations," the letter states.

The delegate are asking for specific funding to be provided to the OIA for infrastructure projects in the territories, "just as specific funding has been provided in the bill for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and other agencies within the Department of the Interior."

Rahall and the territorial delegates are now working to resolve this issue before the bill goes to the House floor for a vote, and before the Senate considers the bill next week, according to Faleomavaega.

The letter to Obey and Lewis was signed by Rahall, Faleomavaega, Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen, and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan. It was also copied to Rep. Jose Serrano, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, who spoke out in support of the territories during the Committee's mark-up session. ***(PR)***

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— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008

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Hopwood celebrates 'chain of cultures'

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over a thousand students of Hopwood Junior High School took a light break from their busy schedule last Thursday to join the school's fifth annual cultural day on campus.

This year's theme was "Chain of Cultures."

Hopwood is home to students of various ethnicities—Chamorro, Carolinian, Japanese, Korean, Bangladesh, Indian, Filipino, Chinese, and other Pacific islanders.

"In a diverse campus like Hopwood, it's important that we always remind our kids about their origin and be proud of their roots. This way, we can promote harmony, understanding and appreciation of each other's culture and tradition," said event coordinator and committee chair Senot Donald B. Mendiola.

Among the highlights of the occasion were the parade of national costumes, traditional ethnic performances, and native island games like coconut husking and grating.

Mendiola admitted that "modernization" has contributed to the "fading" of island cultures.

"It's one factor…the reason Hopwood is keeping this annual celebration for our students," he said, describing this year's participants as more involved and enthusiastic.

He believes that "different cultures on campus is what makes Hopwood."

"Without the inclusion of all these different ethnic backgrounds and cultures…Hopwood will not be the way it is now; it's a big melting pot," Mendiola added.

The celebration was also participated in by popular island artists Parker Yobei, Palauan dancers, Inatu'as, Refaluwasch Warriors, Pinay Pride, and Samoan-Hawaiian Dancers.

According to Elizabeth Arriola, language arts teacher, the celebration was also in conjunction with the school's mission to incorporate PSS standards and benchmarks—to engage students in effective "speaking, listening, reading, and writing."

She emphasized that whatever origins they may have, students speak a common language in school.

For eight graders Rena Tabuena and Yunika Biado, the occasion will bring everybody "greater understanding and appreciation" about cultural identities.

"It's also a good start of friendships and harmonious relationships. Learning more about our classmates' cultures and traditions means building a strong partnership with them as well," they said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

John Gonzales Live schedule

The public is invited to watch and learn about newsmaking issues on John Gonzales Live on KSPN Channel 2 from 7pm to 8pm.

You can participate by text (285-6382), calling (287-4230), or email johngonzales@pticom.com.

Jan. 28 Cervical Cancer Cervical Cancer Survivor, Breast & Cervical Cancer Program Mgr.

Feb. 11 Legislative Leadership and Major Unresolved Issues Sen. President Pedro P. Reyes, House Speaker. Arnold I. Palacios

Feb. 18 Preventing Teen HIV and Unintended Pregnancies Public School System

Feb. 25 Agriculture and Aquaculture: Research & Econ. Opportunities NMC CREES

Mar. 11 Retirement Fund Crisis NMIRF Board and Administrator

Mar. 25 Immigration & Labor Uncertainty CNMI Immigration and Dept. of Labor

Puengin Inetnon Friday this week

Puengin Inetnon will begin on Jan. 30, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4pm and end at 10pm. There will vendors selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. ***(PR)***

CHC

From Page 1

ries during meetings about the impact of federalization on non-U.S. citizen personnel at the hospital.

"The nurses want U.S. work visas, the H1-B visa," CNMI Nursing Association member Joey Camero said yesterday.

Camero said foreign employees and immediate relatives of U.S. citizens at the hospital are thankful that there will be a series of meetings with the health secretary regarding the impact of federalization on their immigration status.

"It shows that the hospital leadership is concerned about us. I think everybody will be there during the meeting," he added.

Department of Public Health human resources manager Marciana D. Igitol issued a one-page memorandum on Tuesday, informing non-U.S. citizen department employees that Villagomez would like to meet with them "to discuss issues regarding federalization takeover come June 2009."

Because there are a lot of non-U.S. citizen employees at the department, there will be six sessions from Jan. 27 to Jan. 30 of at least one hour each.

Villagomez is currently off island on official business and will be back next week.

Camero said foreign employees have uncertainties about the federalization.

"Either they will grant foreign nurses and doctors a work visa or send us all home. We hope they will consider granting a work visa," said Camero, who is the head nurse in the emergency room of CHC.

He said many of the non-U.S. citizen nurses in particular would want to continue working at CHC mainly "because they have come to love the CNMI and consider this their home," and it is close to the Philippines where most of the foreign nurses come from.

"They want job security…right now there's feeling of uncertainty and instability," said Camero, who has been a nurse at CHC since 1987.

Health officials earlier expressed concern about the possibility of health workers in the CNMI leaving for the U.S. mainland once they get a U.S. immigration status that will make them eligible to apply for a "green card."

CHC has an estimated 375 foreign nurses, about 275 of them from the Philippines and the rest mostly citizens of the Freely Associated States, said Camero.

BODY

From Page 1

deed found in San Roque after receiving a call.

Sketchy information showed that detectives from the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau responded to the scene.

It was not clear whether the body was found in the jungle or in a house. There was also no information yet as to who found the body.

A source at DPS said there is a strong possibility that the body was of the missing Matubis.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela last night but he was not available.

The DPS information office is expected to release details about the incident today, Monday.

The 27-year-old Matubis has been reported missing since July 30 last year. The story of his mysterious disappearance was published in newspapers on Aug. 8.

Last Aug. 19, the surveyor was reportedly sighted in the Marpi area, leading to the discovery of his blue Toyota pickup truck near Kalabera Cave that same day. The truck's hood was still hot when investigators found the vehicle.

Malou Matubis, wife of the surveyor, in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune* stated that after spending 45 days vacationing in the Philippines, Alex Matubis went back to Saipan last June 28.

Last July 28, Alex Matubis went to Tinian to do some project. The following day, Minda Castro, the husband of his employer, picked him up at the Saipan airport.

Malou Matubis said that, on July 29 at 10am, her husband sent her a large amount of money and that he left his passport in the barracks. Later that afternoon, somebody reportedly saw him withdrawing money from First Hawaiian Bank.

The surveyor did not return to his barracks that day.

On July 31, 2008, Castro called Malou Matubis to inform her that he was missing.

Malou Matubis flew to Saipan last Sept. 7 and repeatedly appealed to the community to help her locate her husband.

There were initial reports that Alex Matubis had been "acting strangely" after he came back from his vacation.

Malou Matubis said that if her husband is actually suffering from a mental problem, he could have somehow surfaced already. She then stated that someone is possibly holding him.

After failing to find her husband, Malou Matubis went back to the Philippines a couple of weeks ago. The Matubis couple have two children.

FITIAL

From Page 1

of the classrooms for certain schools on Saipan, which included GTC.

"I submitted this to Office of Insular Affairs early last year. The $1.2 million reprogramming request was eventually approved by OIA. In fact, the GTC allocation is still available for disbursement," Fitial said in his e-mail.

Pres secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said the governor will meet with the GTC principal as soon as he returns from Washington D.C.

"The governor looks forward to the meeting and will ask PSS to submit the plan for the repair of GTC classrooms. The governor added that if the $66,000 approved funding from 702 funds is inadequate, he will seek additional 702 funding to provide for the shortfall," Reyes said.

The press secretary said the governor believes that the soccer sports facility was more in keeping with the requirements of the community development block grant while the classroom repairs better fit the funding requirements for federal CIP grants.

The governor emphasized the importance of a world-class soccer facility that would help the CNMI economy by providing destination enhancement, attracting tourists and sports enthusiasts, and developing a sports tourism industry for the CNMI.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. had approved $800,000 for the repair and renovation of the three most dilapidated facilities in GTC.

However, the governor had rescinded the housing agency's decision and selected the establishment of a soccer field in Koblerville over the school project.

Last Friday, GTC school officials disclosed that the "cancellation" of the project might force the school to shut down because the project's action plan was the only reason why the Bureau of Environmental Health allowed the temporary use of the classrooms.

GTC is home to 228 students from kindergarten to sixth grade. Approximately 120 students in the upper grades will be displaced if three buildings are closed.

Buildings B, G, F have 14 classrooms. These structures are more than 30 years and have never been fully repaired since the establishment of the school.

US

From Page 1

Lawyers for the federal government filed the motion to dismiss before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Friday.

The CNMI first filed the lawsuit in September, and the U.S. government filed a motion to dismiss in December. The CNMI then filed their opposition to the motion earlier this month, with the federal government now giving their final reply.

In the motion to dismiss, the lawyers stated that the Commonwealth's initial argument for the lawsuit was economical, but now it is saying that provisions of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act harms their right to self-governance.

"The CNMI attempts in its opposition to reframe all of its alleged injuries as injuries to the CNMI's right to self-governance," the motion stated. "However, this characterization does not square with the complaint, which is replete with allegation after allegation that the challenged provisions of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act... will allegedly inflict economic harm—all of which are conjectural and do not confer standing under Article III of the Constitution. The court should not accept the CNMI's last-minute recasting of the harms alleged as injuries to self-governance."

Secondly, the lawyers wrote, the governor does not have authority to bring this action because CNMI law specifically states that the CNMI Attorney General is responsible for bringing any suit. In the earlier opposition, the CNMI stated that the Commonwealth—not the governor—is the plaintiff in the case.

However, the U.S. government said, the action was initiated, pursued and paid for by the Office of the Governor. Although the Office of the Attorney General was consulted before outside counsel Jenner & Block LLC was retained, as acting Attorney General Gregory Baka has publicly stated and was written in the opposition, "the Commonwealth is not a person or entity that can have 'consultations' with public officials on its own. The CNMI is a political entity, and the Commonwealth acts only when a public official having the authority to act on its behalf does so. The question is: Who acted on behalf of the CNMI in bringing this lawsuit?" the motion states.

Moreover, Howard Willens appears as special counsel to the governor, not as Assistant Attorney General as he has appeared in other cases, the U.S. government wrote. On Friday, the motion notes, Willens entered his appearance as special counsel to the Office of the Governor, not as an Attorney General for the case.

The provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act that the CNMI takes offense at are actually meant to soften the potential hard effects of the sudden application of the law, the motion said.

"If the CNRA simply applied the immigration laws without a transition period—as it lawfully could have done, as even the CNMI appears to concede by agreeing that there is authority to apply Title 8 to the CNMI—then on the transition date, every alien in the CNMI (other than U.S. lawful permanent residents) would be unauthorized to work and immediately removable, because they would all simply be unauthorized aliens present without inspection and work authorization," the motion stated. "The drafters recognized that such an effect would be unwanted and damaging, and took this into account."

Lastly, the lawyers for the U.S. wrote, the court should dismiss the case because the CNMI cannot allege any facts supporting the relief claimed.

"The CRNA was an appropriate act of Congress because it is consistent with the Covenant," according to the motion.

DPS honors Tenorio, 4 others for saving 3 lives

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety honored Friday Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino Tenorio and four civilians for rescuing two stranded surfers and saving the life of a boy from drowning.

DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela, along with Boating Safety officers, handed certificates of appreciation to Tenorio, Ray Crisostimo, Ashley Castro, Darrell Concepcion, and Patrick Aldan.

"This is the department's way of saying thank you to these people. We gave them certificates of appreciation. I want them to be recognized. I want to thank them for saving lives," Tudela said.

Tenorio and retired U.S. Army reservist Ray Crisostimo rescued stranded surfers Nicolas Swaim and Kristina Springer outside the reef line of Sugar Dock late afternoon of Jan. 3.

Castro, Concepcion, and Aldan saved the life of a 3-year-old boy who nearly drowned at PauPau Beach in San Roque on Jan. 18.

Tenorio said he is very grateful that Tudela is aware that there are people in the community who needs to be recognized for the good deeds they've done.

"I've done this [rescue] many times and there hasn't been any recognition in the past. But for this very special moment, I thank the commissioner and the Boating Safety staff," Tenorio said.

Crisostimo said he is elated that he was part of the recognition ceremony. " I always feel that it is a duty to assist a citizen when they are in danger," said the retired military man.

Castro said she is just so overwhelmed and happy with the DPS recognition.

"And I am happy that the boy is safe now," said the 16-year-old Marianas High School student.

Concepcion, 26, and Aldan, 16, said they feel good with the recognition. "I'm surprised that they gave me recognition," Concepcion added.

Last week, DPS also honored three civilians who assisted Boating Safety officers in rescuing five persons, including two minors, from a sinking boat near Managaha last Dec. 26.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela, standing second from left, and Boating Safety's Sgt. Bernard Santos pose with the honorees—Department of Corrections Lino Tenorio and civilians Ray Crisostimo, Darrell Concepcion, Patrick Aldan, and Ashley Castro—who were recognized for saving the lives of three persons.

Micronesia gets accredited health training programs

A regional health group is partnering with community colleges in the Micronesia region to launch the first accredited public health training programs for health workers.

The Pacific Island Health Officers Association met in the Marshall Islands capital, Majuro this week.

The Director of Clinical Services at Palau Hospital, Dr Gregory Dever, says that partnerships between US-affiliated health departments and community colleges in the region has led to new two-year degree courses.

Dr Dever also says it is also expanding efforts to recruit Pacific youth to take up health careers.

He says the first step in the plan is the rollout next month of the two-year degree program in public health in Pohnpei

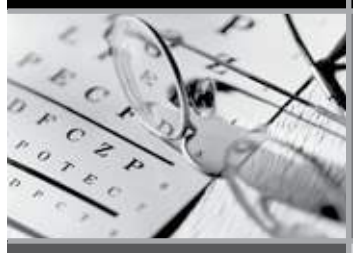
He says Palau Community College is expected to follow with a similar program.

And he says its hoped a similar public health degree program can be offered in Majuro.

Colleges in the Marshall Islands, Pohnpei and Palau are already providing nursing training.

And a plan of action for professional dental training is under consideration, which represents health leaders from Palau, FSM, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands and American Samoa. ***(RNZI)***

January is NATIONAL GLAUCOMA AWARENESS MONTH



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A fifth of retailers caught selling cigarettes to minors

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An estimated 20 percent or at least 51 of the 259 retailers licensed to sell tobacco products on Saipan were found selling cigarettes to minors or those under the age of 18, according to the Department of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division.

ABTC director David Maratita said yesterday the violators were caught during random sting operations in multiple locations on the island.

Some of them were repeat violators and face a fine of at least $500, while others were issued warning letters. ABTC revisits retailers that were issued citations to monitor compliance.

"Around 80 percent of the licensed retailers are complying with the tobacco law and about 20 percent are not in compliance," he said.

Because of the noncompliance rate, ABTC conducts workshops and educational campaigns about the tobacco law. On Thursday, the division conducted a half-day tobacco merchant workshop on its programs, activities and tobacco laws, including Public Law 11-75 which aims to prevent the use of tobacco products among the youth.

"I like to emphasize that the law prohibits selling of tobacco products to minors or those who are under 18 years old. The law also prohibits selling of alcoholic products to those below 21 years old," Maratita said.

Separate workshops are also planned for bartenders, waitresses, waiters and bar owners.

ABTC also visits schools to educate students about tobacco-related laws and regulations.

4 dropoff points for those who want to help sick alien worker

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Additional donations are still needed to help send back home a nonresident worker diagnosed with lupus, along with her two minor sons. As of Sunday, only at least $220 has been raised.

Four dropoff points for monetary donations have been identified by the Overseas Filipino Worker Support Group to be able to reach out to more members of the community.

Geraldine Amor, 35, is still in the intensive care unit of the Commonwealth Health Center. Her aunt, Remy Amor, yesterday said the doctors may have a decision today as to when the patient can be sent home.

"The doctors said she's in a very critical condition and all we wanted is for her to be sent home to the Philippines," the aunt said.

Carlito Marquez, chair of the OFW Support Group's welfare committee, yesterday identified the four dropoff points for the donations:

1. The Philippine Consulate General in Susupe. The point of contact is Rey Tayag.

2. Ever Clean Laundry beside Java Joe's in Dandan. Look for Jaye N. Bautista.

3. Champstar Electronics along Quartermaster Road. Look for Marivic Soriano.

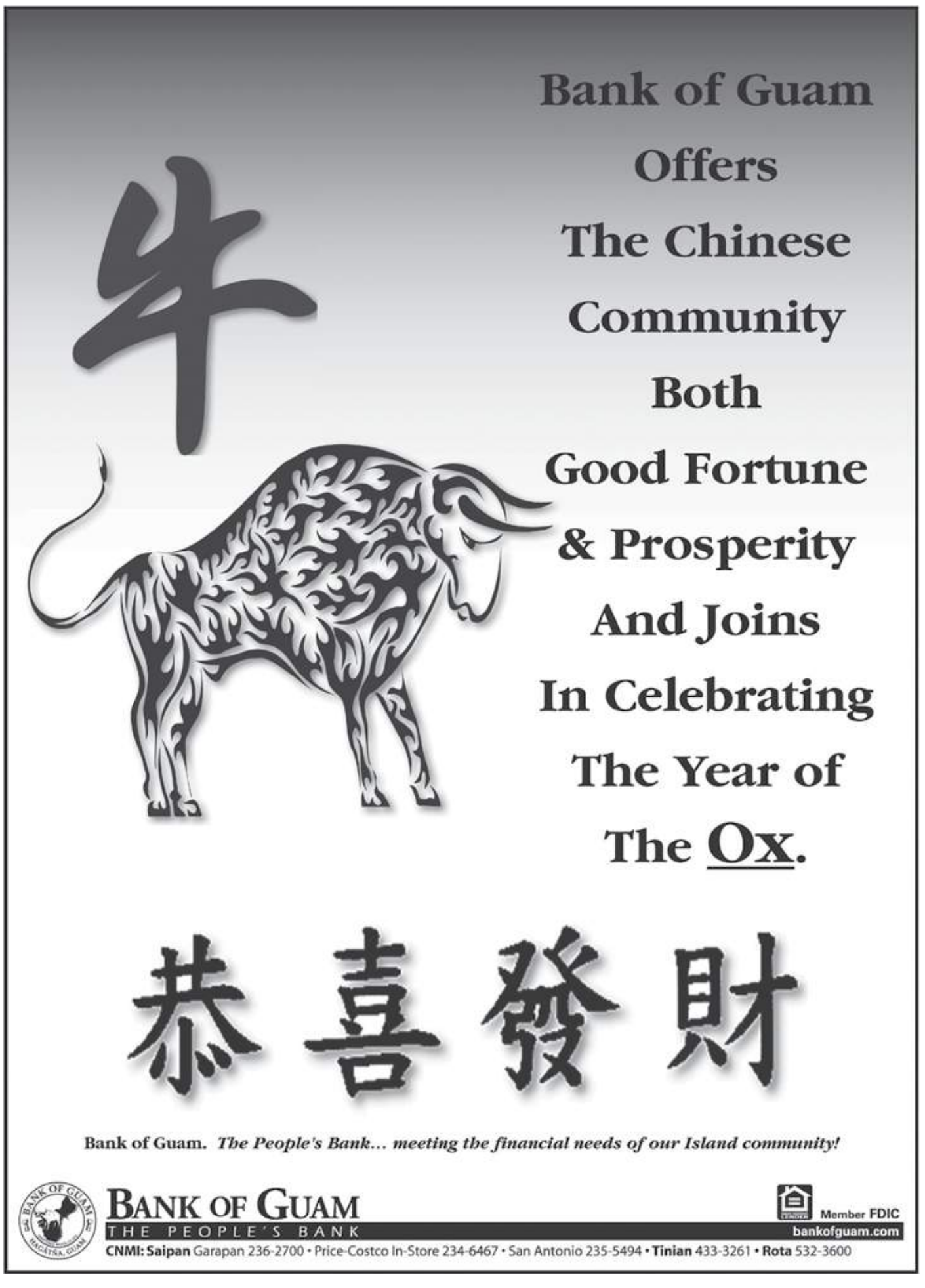
4. Power Plant 4 office on Middle Road near Anaks. Look for Carlito Marquez.

"We are appealing for more donations," Marquez said, reminding those who want to help to sign the prepared sheet of paper and indicate the amount of their donations for accountability purposes.

Marquez can also be reached at 286 6337, and Remy Amor, at 484 5811.

Geraldine Amor had been ill for months until she was confined at CHC on Monday afternoon. Her nonresident worker's permit was not renewed when it expired on Dec. 10 because of her medical condition. She was diagnosed with lupus, an auto-immune disease that can affect various parts of the body, including the skin, joints, heart, lungs, blood, kidneys and brain.

She told *Saipan Tribune* that all she wants is to go back to the Philippines along with her 3-year-old and 1-year-old sons but does not have money for their airfare, for medical and other expenses.



7K Filipino absentee voters in NMI eyed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An estimated 7,000 contract workers from the Philippines are expected to qualify to register as absentee voters for the 2010 presidential elections, according to Philippine Consul General in the CNMI Wilfredo DL. Maximo.

Registration starts on Feb. 1 and ends on Aug. 31.

The names of those who registered in 2003 and 2006 but did not vote in the 2004 or 2007 Philippine elections will be purged from the list of certified absentee voters.

"Those who didn't vote in the last 2004 and 2007 elections should register again this coming registration period, from February to August 2009, if they want to vote in the 2010 presidential polls," Maximo told Saipan Tribune.

The Philippine Consulate General expects more registrants this year than the last registration period because 2010 is a presidential election. However, because of the downturn in the CNMI economy, many Filipino workers have already gone back home and might therefore affect the outcome of the registration.

The 2010 national elections would be the third time that Filipinos abroad will participate in elections in the Philippines while away from home.

Of the over 8,000 Filipino workers in the CNMI who registered to vote in 2003 for the 2004 presidential elections, a little over 5,000 cast their votes.

During the 2006 registration for the 2007 midterm polls, some 3,000 Filipinos in the CNMI registered. Of this number, about 2,000 cast their votes.

Lion dances to usher in the Ox

Today, the Chinese Association of Saipan will go round the island to stage multiple performances of the traditional lion dance to celebrate the Lunar New Year and the Year of the Ox.

According to Chinese Association of Saipan director Rose Chan-Matsuda, the Chinese lion dance troupe will perform the lion dance throughout the day at several business centers located in different villages to drive away evil spirits and to attract good fortune.

"Through the lion dance, the Chinese Association of Saipan hopes to bring good luck and better economy to the island. We'd like to see the whole island enjoy the lion dance and we wish everybody a good and prosperous New Year," Chan said.

To the uninitiated, the lion dance in Chinese culture is a time-honored dance form in which dancers wearing a lion costume imitate a lion's movements. The lion dancers visit businesses to "pick greens." Businesses would tie a *hung bao* or red packet filled with money to a head of lettuce and hang it high above the front door of the business. The lion will seize the lettuce, keep the money, and discard the leaves. The dance is believed to bring good luck and fortune to the business and the dancers are rewarded with the red packet.

The lion dances will follow this schedule:

Jan. 26

9am TSL Plaza
10am Saipan Grand Hotel
11am Hyatt Regency Saipan
12pm Palms Resort Saipan
3pm Subway Gualo Rai and Transpac Business Center
6pm Fiesta Resort & Spa
7:30pm Duty Free Shoppers Galleria

Jan. 27

10:30am Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino ***(PR)***

La Isla Moda opens amid economic crunch

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

La Moda Isla co-owner Del Benson shows one of the interesting areas in the newly opened shopping center where shoppers can have their photo taken.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

La Moda Isla shopping center in Garapan has opened at a time when retail establishments are either cutting back on operations or closing their business altogether because of the economic crunch.

"There's optimism in down times," La Moda Isla co-owner Del Benson said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Saturday.

He said the strategic location of La Moda Isla—near DFS Galleria and ABC Store in the tourist district of Garapan—is a major factor in the decision to open the store.

Its soft opening was on Dec. 21. There's no date set so far for its grand opening.

The 12,000-square-foot La Isla Moda is a standout among the existing shopping centers in the CNMI by combining shopping experience with cultural exploration.

Shoppers are treated to giant visual images of the CNMI's and the region's historic past, as well as the natural beauty of the islands, including underwater and above water photography of Del Benson, murals and paintings. A giant photo of the majestic Grotto dive on the wall, which extends to the floor of the shopping center, serves as backdrop for picture taking.

Souvenir items and other merchandise are either locally made or supplied by local entities.

"We like to showcase the island feel and this is something not available in other stores… We promote local culture and products," said Benson. "We continue to look for local artists, local musicians and suppliers of locally made products."

Although La Moda Isla caters to all tourist markets and local residents, its merchandise are priced lower than other tourist shops in the area.

Frank Cabrera, owner of Stress Free, a locally produced brand of shirts, said he was encouraged by "La Moda Isla's willingness to promote original Saipan products."

"Tourists will always look for local products from the place they visit and they will get a lot of those at La Moda Isla, like Stress Free. We want tourists to kind of have a feel of a stress-free environment. Hopefully the interest will also trickle down to local residents," said Cabrera.

Due to the big shopping floor, "you don't feel crowded" when shopping, Benson added.

Besides offering a culturally enriching shopping experience, La Moda Isla also has a snack corner where shoppers can order refreshing beverages. Shoppers can also surf the Internet through the shop's free Wi-Fi service.

Uncertainties

Despite the optimism that opportunities abound in down times, co-owners of La Moda Isla said the federal takeover of local immigration has been the major cause of uncertainty among businesses in the CNMI

The shopping center opened with the upsurge of tourists from Japan, Korea, China and Russia but by June 1, the CNMI may no longer receive as many Russian and Chinese tourists unless these visitors secure U.S. visas, which is a costly and time-consuming process.

La Moda Isla co-owner Playford Ramsey said that federalization will further hurt the remaining businesses in the CNMI and will scare away new investors.

Cabrera and Benson echoed Ramsey's concerns. "As a local vendor, it's sad to see local businesses close. The feds are creating an unstable economy," said Cabrera.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

La Isla Moda has been changing the retail landscape in the tourist district of Garapan.

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FHB's Dacanay is '08 Executive of the Year

TUMON, Guam—Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president and Guam and NMI region manager of First Hawaiian Bank is the 2008 *Guam Business* Executive of the Year. Dacanay was announced the winner at the 26th annual *Guam Business* Executive of the Year gala, which took place on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Guam. The announcement—held secret by *Guam Business* each year—was greeted with an approving roar from a crowd of about 300.

This year's theme— "Executive Idol Season 2"—was a continuation of last year's hugely popular format, modeled after the reality TV show, "American Idol". The emcee for the evening was Ray Gibson from News Talk K57 radio. Gibson hosts The Breakfast Show on that station and is also the vice president – director of radio operations.

Dacanay

Dacanay is the first female region manager for First Hawaiian and the first person from Guam to hold her current position. In her job, she oversees the profitability and production of the Guam and Saipan region, which include five branches—two on Saipan and three on Guam.

Dacanay started out working in retail and tourism, as a cashier at Gibson's Department Store and a front desk clerk at the Guam Hilton Hotel. She then joined the Chase Manhattan Bank as a telephone switchboard and telex operator, working her way up the ranks, through the different departments of the bank. She joined First Hawaiian's sister company, First Hawaiian Credit Corp. as an assistant branch manager in 1991. She started with FHB when it merged with First Hawaiian Credit Corp. in 1998. She became vice president and manager of the FHB Maite Banking Center in 2002, before being promoted to her current position in 2006. She celebrated 10 years with FHB and 29 years in the banking industry in 2008.

Dacanay is the chairwoman of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. She also sits on the Strategic Economic Development Council on Saipan, Guam Visitors Bureau Chairman's Strategic Advisory Council and the USO Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. She has been a member of Soroptomist International of the Marianas, and the Pacific Jaycees. She is a former AWANA leader and the former treasurer for the Yigo General Baptist Church.

Through the bank, Dacanay supports Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society, the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Guam Nurses Association, Rainbows for All Children, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Filipino Community of Guam, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and many other organizations.

Dacanay holds a 1996 bachelor's in economics from the University of Guam. She also completed a master's-level extension program from Pacific Coast Banking School in Seattle, Wash. in 2001.

She and her husband Hank have a daughter, Melanie, 29.

The *Guam Business* Executive of the Year gala is a major fundraiser for the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross. The January/February 2009 issue of *Guam Business*, with a portrait of Dacanay by Armand Germar on the cover, was unveiled that evening. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 26, 1999

US labor, immigration plan rejected

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday the Northern Marianas is still capable of implementing reforms and vowed to maintain control of minimum wage and immigration amid plans of Washington to introduce a new proposal on federal takeover of these commonwealth functions. Negotiations aimed at resolving CNMI and US differences in addressing problems arising from local labor and immigration policies bogged down last week due to irreconcilable positions of the two governments. White House representatives to the Section 902 consultations, unconvinced that commonwealth officials can reform labor and immigration, say they will draft a new legislation to put these functions under federal authority.

JAL, tour operators oppose hiked fees

Japan Saipan Travel Association and Japan Airlines have objected to the plan of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to increase airport fees because this will contribute to the downturn of the island's tourism economy. Kiyoshi Aikawa, president of JSTA, said the increase in airport fees would be passed on to consumers, pushing travelers to choose cheaper destinations such as Hawaii, Guam and Bali, Indonesia. Instead of raising fees, Aikawa said all efforts must be geared toward satisfying the tourist at a lower cost and promote the Visit the Marianas '99 Campaign.

January 26, 2000

Teno will not appeal court ruling on AG

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday ruled out the possibility of appealing a Superior Court decision that ordered him to appoint a permanent Attorney General, saying he has no choice but to comply with the law. At the same time, he promised he will definitely submit by next week to the Senate his nomination for the position from a short list of likely candidates whom he said are willing to help his administration. In his first interview since the court handed down the ruling on Jan. 20, Mr. Tenorio stressed that he had been vocal on his intention to name a new chief government lawyer in place of acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara even before it came out.

Gov't cuts travel expenses by 22%

Overall actual travel expenses by the government exceeded its Fiscal Year 1999 allotment by a little over $1 million, although it dropped by 22 percent from $4.6 million in FY 1998 to $3.6 million, a report from the Office of the Governor showed. According to the report, government-wide allotment for travel during the last fiscal year was $2.507 million while overall expenditures reached $3.605 million. The executive branch managed to cut its travel expenses from $3.5 million in FY 1998 to $2.6 million last year, of which, 57 percent or at least $1.5 million was for medical referral. However, the executive branch surpassed its $2.4 million allotment for the last fiscal year by more than $150,000.

January 26, 2001

DLNR tightens monitoring of meat imports

Quarantine officials have been asked to remain vigilant on the possible entry of meat coming from countries other than the mainland US, especially from areas hit by the mad cow disease. Lands and Natural Resources Special Assistant for Correspondences Marianne Teregeyo said quarantine officers stationed at various Commonwealth airports and seaports were advised to strictly enforce existing procedures due to reports of mad cow contamination cases in several European countries. This, even as the CNMI restricts the entry of meats from Australia, Japan, Taiwan, Philippines and countries other than the mainland US.

7th illegal recruitment victim charged

A 33-year-old Filipino who was a victim of illegal recruitment in Manila was charged yesterday before the Superior Court with conspiracy to commit counterfeit. Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas has set a $7,500 bail for the temporary release of Bobby C. Valdez, a resident of Malasique, Pangasinan. Immigration authorities released Valdez to police custody Thursday after a day of intensive questioning. Valdez came here as a tourist with six other Filipinos who were earlier arrested by immigration and police officers at the Saipan International Airport. They sold their farms back home to come here and paid the illegal recruiters $1,000 to $1,500, each with hopes of landing good jobs so that they can give their families a better life.

Korean boy band's video showcases Saipan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of East Asia boy band TVXQ pose with Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, in red, at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The sand, surf and scenery of tropical Saipan served as the backdrop for recent videotaping by popular East Asia boy band "TVXQ."

Also marketed as Tohoshinki in Japan and Dong Bang Shin Ki or Dong Bang Shin Gi in Korea, TVXQ visited the Northern Mariana Islands on Jan. 13-17, 2009, to videotape for an upcoming music video and SBS TV, one of three major national channels in Korea.

With a band name roughly translated as "Rising Gods of the East," TVXQ members Xiah, Micky, Hero, Max, and U-Know showcased several island locations during the taping, including the white sand beaches of Managaha Island and the scenic natural sites of the Grotto, Bird Island, Suicide Cliff and Banzai Cliff. They also visited the Korean Peace Memorial and highlighted the numerous outdoor sports activities available year round at their lodging at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"TVXQ is a South Korean band that also happens to be quite popular in our major tourist market of Japan, so we're quite fortunate to have them videotape here," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Their visit provides a unique vehicle for us share the beauty of our islands with their many music fans throughout Asia."

Since their debut in 2003, TVXQ has become one of the most popular singing groups in East Asia, gaining great popularity in such countries as China, Singapore, Thailand, and other East Asian regions. Their repertoire across these diverse markets ranges from a cappella to pop. ***(MVA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT

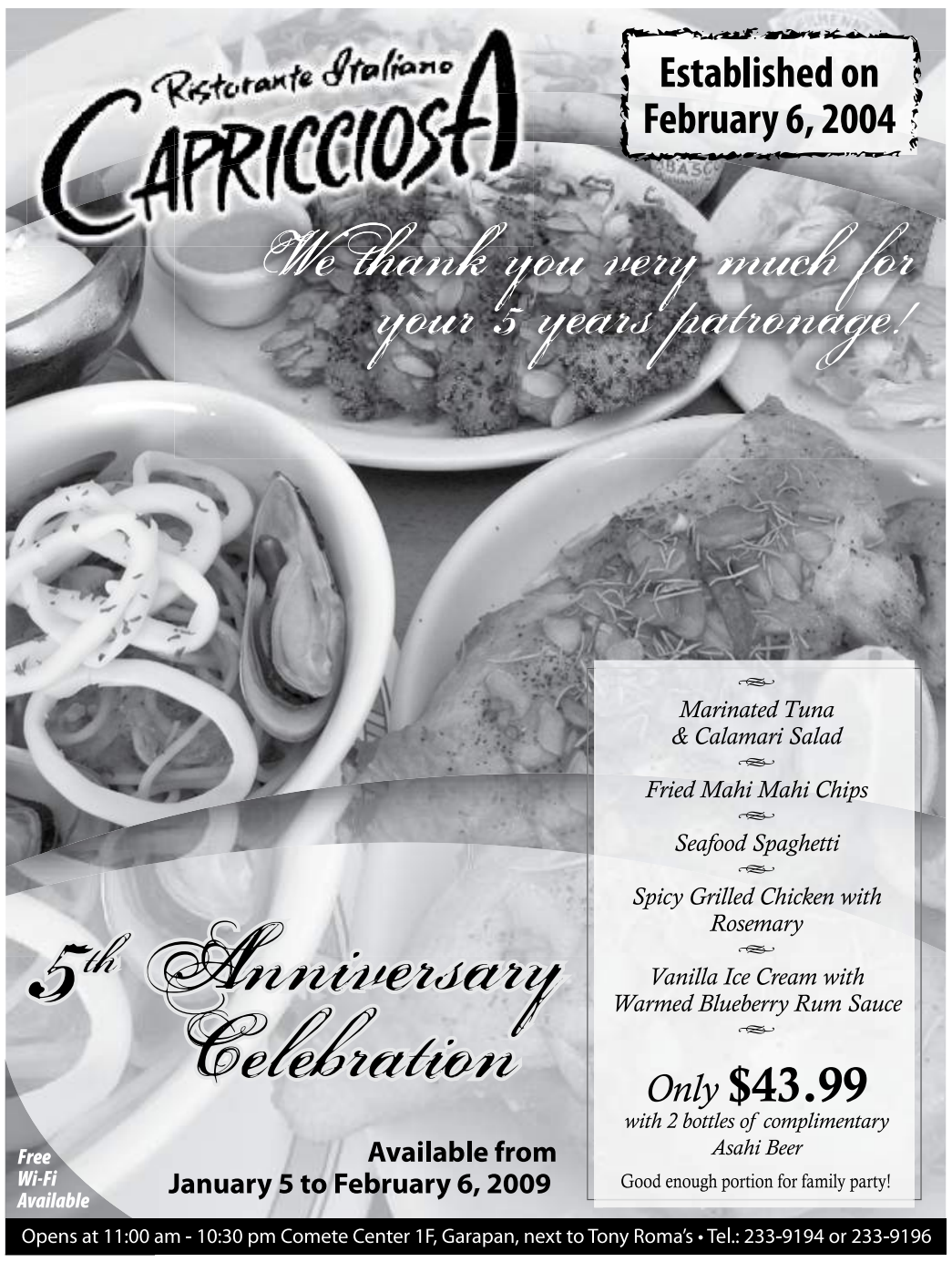
Birthday greetings go out to Vicky as she enjoys her special day today. Wishing you many more wonderful birthdays to come. Happy birthday!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SPELLING WHIZ

Congratulations to Geraldine Dedios who won 3rd place, San Antonio Elementary School Spelling Bee on Jan. 9, 2009. We are very proud of you! Greetings come from your loving Mom and Papa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO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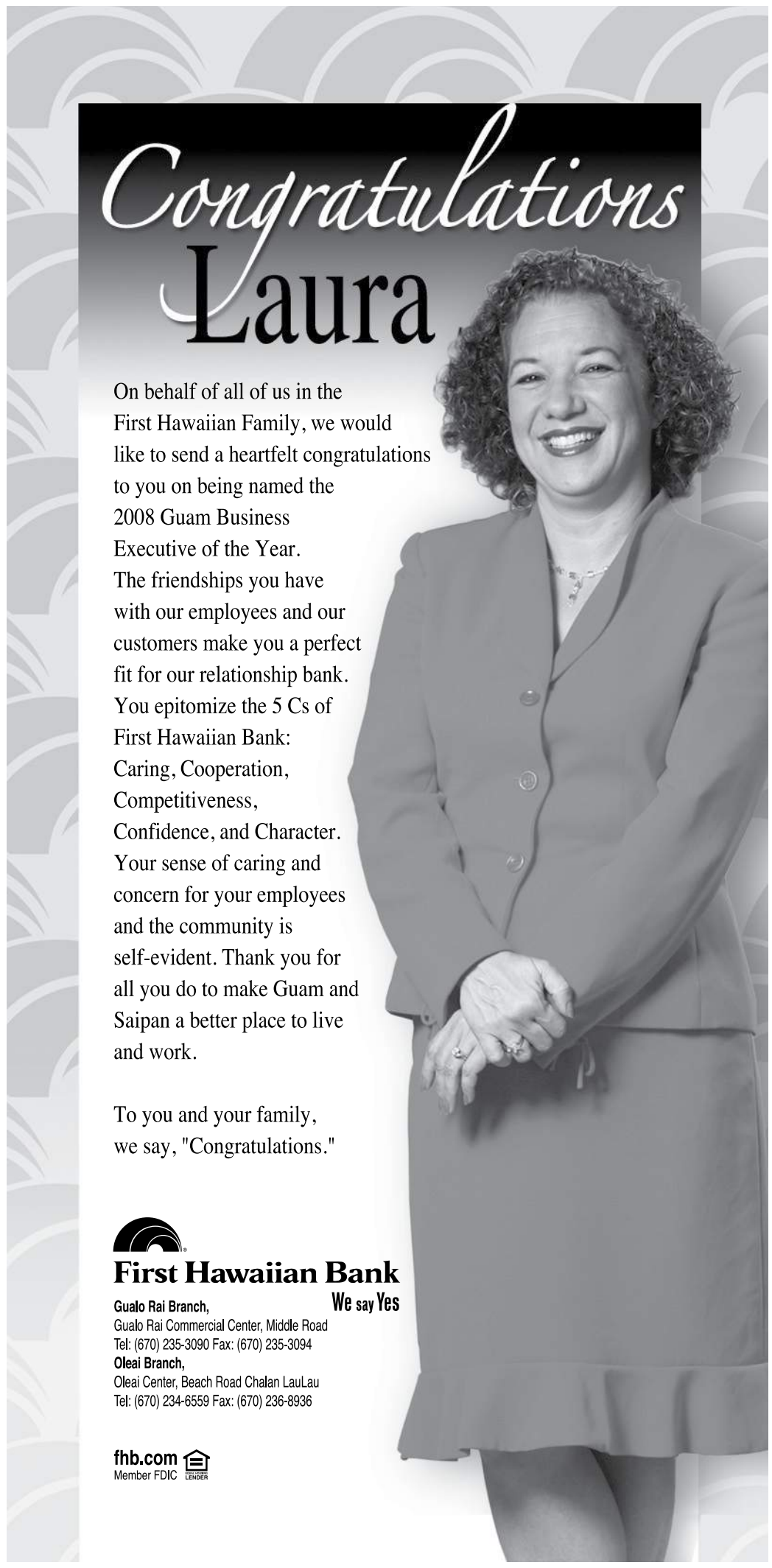
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Laura
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You epitomize the 5 Cs of First Hawaiian Bank: Caring, Cooperation, Competitiveness, Confidence, and Character.
Your sense of caring and concern for your employees and the community is self-evident. Thank you for all you do to make Guam and Saipan a better place to live and work.
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

A hard knot to untie

With executive orders signed Thursday, President Barack Obama has begun the rehabilitation of this country's reputation when it comes to the treatment of suspected terrorists. But the orders contain ambiguities that demonstrate how hard it will be to unwind the tangle that former President George W. Bush created.

The centerpiece of Obama's effort to turn the page on the lawlessness of the Bush administration is the closing within a year of the notorious detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In the same order, he established a procedure to review the status of detainees still imprisoned at Guantanamo to determine who should be transferred to other countries, who should be put on trial and who are so dangerous that they cannot be prosecuted or repatriated.

Obama's second order requires the CIA to follow the same rules governing interrogations as the U.S. military. It also outlaws CIA detention centers like the secret overseas prisons where suspected terrorists were held, without access to the Red Cross, and subjected to "enhanced" interrogation. The third order directs the attorney general, secretary of Defense and other officials to review the case of Ali Saleh Kahlah al-Marri, the only alleged "unlawful enemy combatant" being held in the United States.

All of these orders are improvements over Bush's policies, but they include unnecessary equivocations. The order closing Guantanamo, for example, expresses Obama's preference that detainees be tried in civilian courts or in courts-martial conducted under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. But it reserves the option of using the current, and flawed, military commission system (though perhaps with new procedures).

The order governing interrogation is similarly compromised. It rightly requires CIA interrogators to abide by the Army Field Manual, which prohibits physical force, waterboarding, extended solitary confinement, placing hoods on prisoners' heads or using dogs to intimidate them. The order, however, seems to allow the administration to change its mind. It creates a task force to review the manual's guidelines "to determine whether different or additional guidance is necessary for the CIA." It isn't.

In fairness to Obama, some issues do call for additional study, notably the question of how to deal with "high-value" detainees who, even if acquitted of war crimes, would pose a danger if released or repatriated. Obama's order says officials will explore "lawful options" for dealing with them. That task is complicated by the fact that interrogators used waterboarding against Sept. 11 plotter Khalid Shaikh Mohammed.

Obama deserves credit for ending the worst of the Bush administration's excesses in the "war on terror." As he does, he should not introduce shades of gray into issues that call for black-and-white clarity.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

How to unsucceed in business on Saipan: Part II

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

There are reasons for failure and there are reasons for success. By studying each result we can improve on the next attempt. I am reminded of my first experience as an owner of a business in Japan.

For several months one of my top employees was having difficulty in working with other employees. Regardless who I assigned to work with him, no one could satisfactorily relate to him. At first I blamed the other employees for not getting along with him. However, after a while I realized that it was really him that had the problem, not the others. How could over eight or nine different employees be wrong and not him?

I solved the problem by helping him correct his attitude toward himself and to his fellow employees. After a brief period, he learned to work with everyone once he realized that he was the problem, not all the other employees.

Can this be one of the reasons the CNMI is having the troubles it is? Could it be our attitude toward foreigners as well as to statesiders? Think about it. Do we really accept outsiders or do we merely use them? Is it us against them? I have lived here for over 25 years and I often wonder am I really accepted?

After being in business for over 45 years in three different countries, I am convinced that one of the major reasons for our unsuccessful results is our approach to the relationship between the investor and us. We fail to take into account the human element.

We must understand that every thing we receive in life, every dollar we earn, is because another person works for or works with us. We can do little by ourselves. We are almost totally interdependent on others. And the results of the interdependency depend on our attitude.

It appears that every time we enter into any negotiation with an investor, we approach it as though we are in a poker game. As you know in a game of poker the aim is to win as much money as possible from the other players. We do this by various techniques. But the end result is that we win! We do not worry if the other guys walk away from the table happy or unhappy. We will use any advantage to win.

However, in a sound business arrangement all parties must win. No one should walk away from the table unhappy. If one of the players isn't happy, in a short time he will shout: "Foul!" and the game is soon over. Any good business deal must result in all parties walking away and feeling they have gotten a fair shake in the deal. This arrangement will last a long time. Then when problems arise, they can and will quickly be resolved because all parties have a mutual respect.

I see and feel this "poker game" type of attitude in us when we negotiate with foreign investors. We tell them what we want! How we want it! Where we want it! Take it or leave it! We don't understand what it is that they are seeking. We feel that they are trying to take advantage of us. We feel that they will make more money than us.

To be frank, I must use two words that describe most of our negotiation tactics. Too often we enter negotiations with a superior attitude and with an air of arrogance. We forget that we will get only what we negotiate for, not what we demand. These two feelings are not obvious or shown openly, but are felt by the other party. As a result the end results are not genuine. I may be wrong in this thinking. Please correct me and others who may feel as I do.

Also another thing that concerns me are the people we send in to do our negotiations. Many times they lack the necessary skill needed to negotiate. What training with large businesses do they have? What negotiation skills do they possess?

The worst scenario is when some of the negotiators try to act as brokers promising the investor that they can open doors from their connections. Of course, they expect to get paid. You and I have heard many of these horror stories. When that fails, disappointment sets in for the investor. We keep forgetting that bad management is responsible for 95 percent of all business failures.

No, I am not writing a treatise on how to conduct a successful business. There are more qualified people than I for that. But I am trying to stir up some thinking about why and how we are losing so many business ventures. We must do better.

Let us study why Singapore, the world's leading country for business-friendly relationships, is highly successful. Let us study their Public/Private Partnership System. It would make good sense to send someone there and study from their government why they are so successful.

It is not lack of money that we so often fail. When a business plan is soundly put together, the money needed will find its way to the plan. I feel that it is lack of our willingness to let go of our personal agendas at the expense of the country. Why are we so different? Oh, I forgot, we must politicize all decisions. We want the credit.

I have just finished reading about Puerto Rico, a Commonwealth of the United States. It is interesting how many different industries they have. One is a big tourist market and another is the one we just helped to chase away—the garment industry. Puerto Rico produces

See HOW on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Hong Bao in the crisis of profligacy

Today, the greetings *Kung Hee Fat Choy* will be heard and read in many exchanges around our island and across the planet to meet the Lunar New Year in the Chinese calendar. This is the Year of the Ox, which serendipitously is also the first year of Year-of-the-Ox celebrant Barack Obama's administration in the presidential office. And we thought he did not have anything in common with Nancy Reagan!

The greetings literally mean, "Congratulations and be prosperous," though there are slight variations in pronunciation of the same characters, e.g., in Pinyin: *Gongxi facai*, that occurs in all the Chinese dialects, but the sentiment remains the same. The first two syllables, presumably the oldest, are a congratulatory phrase, not stoically but exuberantly, for surviving the past year, perhaps, the harshness of the winter. The last two syllables had been recent additions appropriate to the inroads of consumerism and capitalism into the China's trade and commerce since the West started carving out pieces of the Ming Dynasty's terrain, and flourishing in the current era began by the venerable Deng Xiao Ping of post-Tiananmen Square 1989 fame.

Common to everyone during this 15-day celebration (three official holidays in mainland China) is the giving of the ubiquitous red envelope or packet known as *Hong Bao* in Mandarin, *Lai See* in Cantonese and *Ang Pao* in Hokkien, the latter being the familiar name to Filipinos. The packet bears a monetary gift, which is given during the holidays, and also during special occasions such as weddings, birthdays and anniversaries.

Thus, when greeted with *Kung Hee Fat Choy,* children had been known to loudly scream: *Hong Bao Na Lai*—"keep the red envelope coming." Adults have also picked up on it, though traditionally, the *Hong Bao* giving is from an older person to a younger one, or from one of a higher social status to another.

Now, to our American *Hong Bao*. Boston U professor Andrew J. Bacewich wrote in his rather very timely and relevant book, *The Limits of Power,* (2008) that the Jeffersonian trinity of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," is at the center of our civic theology, and has defined who we are and how we relate to the rest of the world.

"If one were to choose a single word to characterize that identity, it would have to be *more.* For the majority of contemporary Americans, the essence of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness centers on a relentless personal quest to acquire, to consume, to indulge, and to shed whatever constraints might interfere with those endeavors."

This ethic of self-gratification, a penchant for consumption and self-indulgence is firmly entrenched in the American way of life, neither to be deplored nor celebrated, by Bacevich's reckoning, only to be acknowledged. It is also the way of life that we have marketed, exported and successfully sold to the rest of the world as what it means to be a responsible citizen. In short, we have created a global altar to the great god of greed! (My word, not Bacevich.)

Two features in the history of the United States are the accumulation of power and the building of an empire of abundance. The colonial empires of Europe had mined the natural resources of their colonies but most of it had been in the field of agriculture and in human labor. With the industrial revolution in England, and the American pre-eminence in the use of oil since its discovery for commercial use in 1840 that enabled American industry to reign over the empire of production, we successfully marketed our Carnegie-Rockefeller-Ford mindset to the rest of the world, and in the process, developed the urban centers and suburban sprawls that now dots the global landscape, not to mention the smoke belching factories and motorized vehicles that shapes and sustains that life style.

Noting the dysfunction that we had built into our American economic system, we exported our American manufacturing to the industrializing nations of the world, both its useful and detrimental aspects, in the creation of the empire of consumption. The U-of-Chicago boys taught us that supply-side economics is no longer dependent on feeble "demand" for as long as we stoke the fire that inflames the empire of consumption, "build it and they will come!"

Americans led in the binge of consumption with the plastic card as our I.D. now worth a per family indebtedness of $6,000-9,000 in the United States. This culture of consumption has since sent Mother Nature into paroxysm of extremes of wet-and-dry, cold-and-hot, abundance in harvests and frequency of famine, alluring megamalls and disappearing mom-and-pop stores, widespread geographical wars and commercialized psychic peace.

Pollution levels in Los Angeles, Tokyo, Rio and Beijing, Hyderabad and Houston have reached criminal toxicity. Our population has grown alarmingly obese, while widespread undernourishment and starvation stalks the marginalized and disenfranchised.

The increase of neurological disorders suspected of being triggered by unaccustomed chemical preservatives and additives into the food chains, e.g., the geometric increase in the incidences of autism nationally and worldwide, has set emergency alert bells ringing. Now comes the collapse of Wall Street itself that sustained the empires of production and consumption, and everyone is clamoring for a piece of the *Hong Bao* from anybody anywhere. In short, we have thrown ourselves into the center of chaos, with America still clinging to its delusions of power and illusions of abundance.

Alas, even our PSS has become captive of the ways of our industries. Focus on standardized tests, like we were producing paper clips on a factory line, have replaced sharing of pedagogical practices that work; our bureaucratic structure is adept in the assessment of compliance but sorely deficient in the accountability of effective teaching and learning. Thus, we spend more money in recruiting teachers because the revolving still, as had been true with the garment industry, is cheaper and looks more favorable on the bottom line of the spreadsheet, rather than retaining the ones we have, no matter how well they have established a history of loyalty, diligence and effectivity! Our two-year contract cycle is a mirror image of the bonded servitude employment practices of commercial houses, rather than in the quality of their human capital, systems and resources.

Hong Bao Na Lai is what the financial institutions around the world are saying to their governments. The automobile industry is saying the same to Washington D.C., and the CNMI government had been snorting the same in an arrogant and childish way (shamelessly leveraging the marine monument, Uncle Sam's strategic military interests in land leases, peculiar and narrow readings of the Covenant and the CNMI Constitution, and convoluted legalistic turns in the application of law, in my opinion).

For a former mendicant retiring "old man" without great social netting underneath, my next *Hong Bao* will probably come from Chapter 7 and the Food Stamps' office. No matter. We have come this far and survived. We dare celebrate. *Kung Hee Fat Choy!*

Jaime Vergara
via e-mail

Same predicament

Sid, I understand where you're coming from. My own family too is under the same predicament to which there's nothing I could do to resolve all claims.

From the outset, the resolution of this matter is the most difficult one I had to endure other than the lack of funds to proceed with the granting of homestead lots for the multitude of applicants.

Claimants with family members dying of cancer and other debilitating illnesses have asked for partial payment. The setback isn't with the department as much as the inability of family members to come to terms with the disposition of ownership and division of compensation. And the beat goes on. This is my daily dinner as I head home after a long day at work.

I pray, too, that collective leadership would converge and agree to resolve this matter with finality. I also pray that, when I leave DPL at the end of this year, we can jointly close this chapter in our developmental history, though such is perhaps nothing more than wishful thinking on my part. No grudges, Sid. Evidently, you are a nephew, not my prim.

Ghilisow,

John S. DelRosario Jr.
Secretary, DPL

Peace and reconciliation

This is a letter is intended to reach out to all our friends and parishioners of Kristo Rai Church in Garapan. I wish to set the mood of this letter as a gesture of friendship and to bring back peace and understanding among all of us living the CNMI, particularly those that go to Kristo Rai Church to seek peach and to commune with God.

The recent incident that I read in the local newspaper wherein Mr. Vic Cepeda was quoted in saying "this is our Church—for the Chamorros and NOT for the Filipinos…." or something to that effect is causing many of us in the community to be enraged by such an irresponsible statement if in fact Vic made such a statement. I have been watching the local newspapers hoping that Vic would apologize but unfortunately his apology is not forthcoming. To those of you who are offended by what Vic said, *I sincerely apologize and ask for forgiveness as I feel that we must mend fences and go on with our life*.

I for one do not subscribe to what Vic has said. No one person can claim ownership of the Church. It belongs to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. The Diocese of Chalan Kanoa has custodial responsibility to look after these Churches. We, the parishioners go to Church to commune with God. Each parish has a group of volunteers to assist our priests in the affairs of the respective Churches. These volunteers, "Parish Council" do not own the Church. I don't know what prompted Vic to make such humiliating statement. The Kristo Rai Church in Garapan, as any other Catholic Churches in the CNMI, are houses of worship where we commune with God.

In 1978 I chaired the special committee that raised the money to rebuild the Church in Garapan. The committee raised sufficient money to complete the construction and pay for the collaterals of the Church. The special committee worked hard to rebuild the Church in Garapan so everyone will have a place to pray "in the house of God."

I am pleased to see the choir is back. Let us join the choir on Sunday Masses and sing with joy and in the spirit of unity. I want to take this opportunity to express my profound "Si Yuus Maase" to all the priests for their sacrifice and dedication to be the "bridge" between us and our Creator.

So, I ask everyone who believe in God to let us forgive and forget and let us move on with our lives. We are all children of God and He loves each and every one of us. In His name, let us enjoy life and respect one another.

David M. Sablan
Kristo Rai Church parishioner

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I feel compelled to come to the defense of letter writer William Strand, whose Jan. 21 letter, "Racial purity in church," has been creating a firestorm, mainly because quite a number of people apparently didn't get it. Since his letter came out, we have received angry responses from readers who took the letter too literally.

To clarify, that letter by Mr. Strand was a satire, intended to expose the absurdity of something by using irony, sarcasm, and hyperbole. In this case, Mr. Strand was using sarcasm to show people why the idea of a racially pure church is ludicrous, irrational and racist garbage. Mr. Strand has been one of our more progressive letter writers and his previous letters to the editor show his penchant for using irony, derision and wit.

Jayvee Vallejera
Editor, Saipan Tribune

HOW

From Page 10

over $400 million a year of garments for the U.S. military market and employs over 6,000 local people in that industry.

How much do we manufacture for the military's garment needs? Incidentally, the U.S. military spends over $3 billion a year on its garment needs. Oh, by the way, the minimum wage in Puerto Rico is $5.25 an hour as opposed to our $4.05 per hour. Their government also enjoys basically the same benefits from the United States as we do. It might be wise to study how they do it. What do you think?

Look, I am not saying that everything we do is wrong. But we have to admit that we are messing up too often. We are screwing up too many good opportunities. We are under the flag of the United States, which is a major plus. We have the backing of the U.S. government for most ventures we want to do. We can borrow money if we really need it if we show the lenders that we know how to invest it. We are next door to over one billion people and next door to several prosperous countries. We have all the ingredients for success. What more do we need? Yet we cannot seem to make our economy grow. We keep relying on others to do what we must do ourselves. We find it hard to change our thinking and realize that many times the enemy is us.

What do we have to do to reach understanding?

Let's begin with ourselves. *To know ourselves is the beginning of wisdom and change.* When we learn anything we change. Once we do this, economic plans will have a new meaning. We have all the tools and opportunities lying at our feet.

Let's stoop down, pick them up, and let's go to work! Let's build our economy with our own two hands against all odds. We must cultivate a strong desire to be great and successful. No one else can do it for us! I believe in us. Do you? Have a pleasant week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°

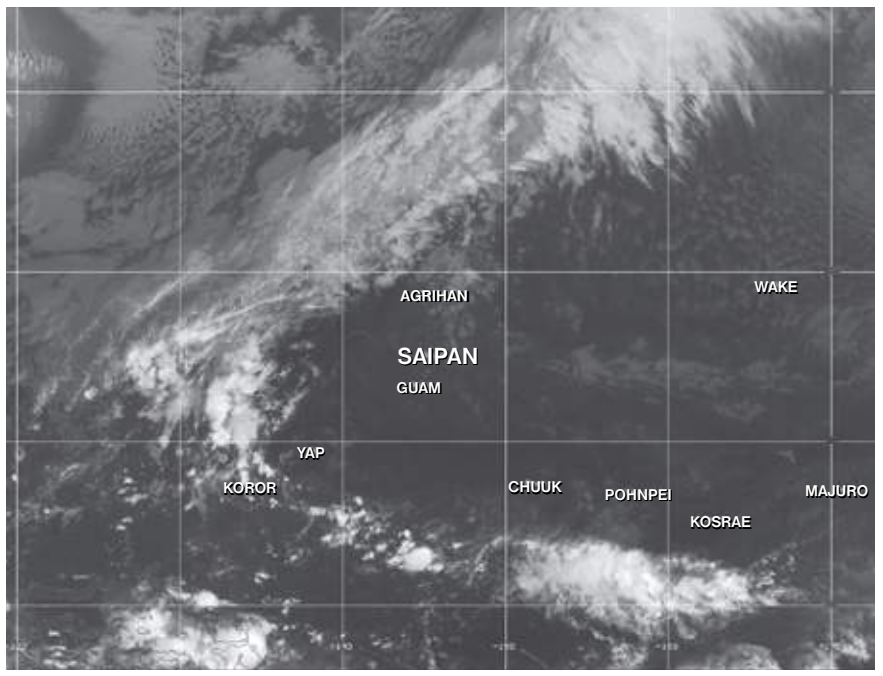
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼75
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲89	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲73	▼67
Beijing	Sunny	▲35	▼18
Hong Kong	Showers	▲62	▼57
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼65
London	Partly Sunny	▲49	▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼48
Manila	Dreary	▲85	▼72
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼67
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼64
New York	Cloudy	▲24	▼18
Osaka	Cloudy	▲42	▼28
Paris	Showers	▲41	▼39
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲43	▼21
Rome	Rain	▲52	▼37
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲40	▼28
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼43
Seoul	Flurries	▲34	▼10
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲50	▼31
Washington, DC	Cold	▲33	▼23

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, JAN. 25, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from 25N147E to beyond 130E at 16N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line. Convergent trade winds to the east of a surface trough located just west of 130E are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of a line from 15N130E to 10N135E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror within 100 miles of a line from 6N138E to 10N134E and also south of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 3N153E to 3N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:55 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:55 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:17 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:07 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:33 AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	7:13 AM	6:59 PM
Wednesday	7:51 AM	7:48 PM
Thursday	8:27 AM	8:37 PM
Friday	9:03 AM	9:26 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

CNMI, Guam join lunar new year celebrations

The Chinese aren't the only communities who will be celebrating the start of the lunar new year on Jan. 26. Joining them will be indigenous Pacific Islanders on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who are reviving their traditional use of the lunar calendar.

The two U.S. territories have created separate 2009 lunar calendars featuring the traditional lunar months and moon phases in their indigenous Chamoru and Refaluwasch languages.

The calendars also feature traditional fishing almanacs for the two cultures, the tides and moon rise and set times for Saipan and Hagtna, and the winning entries of local student art contests focused on theme of the seasons of the moon and their relationship to the people, land and sea of the Mariana Archipelago.

The calendars and student art contests were initiated and sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, with funding support from the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. The calendars will be available for download from the Council's website at www.wpcouncil.org/education.html.

"The ancient Chamoru depended on the phases of the moon for their livelihood, and it was based on the thirteen months that begin with Tumaiguini, which falls this year on Jan. 26," says Peter R. Onedera, chairman of the committee that worked to create the Guam calendar.

The 2009 lunar calendar project culminated with the first-ever Lunar New Year festival in Guam, held Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Guam Fisherman's Cooperative at the Hagatna Boat Basin. During the all-day event, the Guam calendar was distributed to the public. Participants also enjoyed exhibits, crafts and entertainment that were presented entirely in the Chamoru language.

A major highlight of the event was a chinahan, an ancient Chamoru method of cooking underground. The public was invited to the preparation of the chinahan at 1:30pm when fish and starch crops such as taro, yams, breadfruit, tapioca and sweet potatoes were placed in the earthen oven and unearthed at 6:30pm. An evening dinner was served at no cost to those who attend.

The festival and publication of the calendars that were publicly distributed at the event were sponsored by the Bank of Guam, BankPacific, Docomo Pacific, DZSP, Ginen I Hila' I Maga'taotao Siha Association, Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, Guam Fisherman's Cooperative Association, Guam Gallery of Art, Kloppenburg Enterprises, *Pacific Daily News*, Pepsi Cola Bottling Company, South Pacific Petroleum Corporation, University of Guam's Department of Chamorro Affairs and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is the policy-making agency for fisheries management in offshore waters around the US Pacific Islands. It is the first regional fishery management council in the nation to prohibit drift gill-net fishing, require the use of vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and to develop an ecosystem-based fishery management plan. ***(World-Wire)***

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

On behalf of the staff and management of Tan Holdings affiliates throughout the region, we extend our best wishes to all for a happy and prosperous New Year.

Let us work together towards a brighter future in this lucky new year of the ox!

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Year of the Ox

Kung Hei Fat Choi! to the Lunar New Year

The lunar calendar is based on solar and lunar cycles and thus the new year falls on a different day of the Western solar calendar each year. This year is the Year of the Ox

The new year finds new United States President Barack Obama, who was born in 1961, as its No. 1 Ox. Also listed as prominent Ox people are former President Joseph Estrada and popular American movie stars Robert Redford and George Clooney. Clark Gable, Walt Disney, Charlie Chaplain, Johann Sebastian Bach, Vincent Van Gogh, and Adolf Hitler are among the famous and infamous Ox people who left indelible footprints on world events in their lifetime.

With the patience, perseverance, and hardworking character of the Ox, this year is seen by Feng Shui masters as a time that has room for some modest reaping despite the flood of dismal forecasts of a global economic meltdown.

Joy Lim, a recognized Feng Shui consultant, said 2009 is a "resilient year" for the country's economy. He sees an inward wave of substantial market prospects which should push productivity and add to the country's stability.

She said that the No. 9 flying star, which in Chinese legend is claimed to be the carrier of a lucky multiplier element, has flown into the Year of the Ox, which bodes well for industries related to metal such as computers, mining, chemicals, car manufacturing, and repairs.

AP

Dancers dressed as a bull perform at the opening ceremony of a temple fair in Beijing on the eve of Chinese New Year Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009. Temple fairs opened across the city as Chinese prepared to celebrate the Year of the Ox.

In the New Year, she said, obstacles and even failures must be embraced, because it is in facing them that business and livelihood barriers can be overcome.

Hard work and endurance in taking advantage of business prospects and opportunities will play a major role in one's becoming a winner "in any endeavour one sets his heart in."

The Chinese New Year is all about symbols of prosperity, good fortune, and good health. Hence the scramble for lucky charms, golden Buddhas, and tiny golden bells to ring in the good luck of the new year.

According to Chinese legend, it is good to display the mark of the character "fu" on doors and walls for an extra bit of luck.

Also in the year of the Ox, anything in jade is certain to attract the good fortunes in the coming year, while keeping water flowing is said to bring in great wealth.

For this year, because of the lucky flying star No. 9, it is held that this year's lucky number is 9, but No. 8 can never be far behind.

On the eve of the Chinese New Year, cleaning up and throwing out junk, getting rid of empty boxes and broken items is a must to welcome the New Year with a clean slate. See that nothing blocks windows, main gates, and doors to allow the good fortunes of the New Year to come in.

Mounds of mandarin oranges alongside a fresh pineapple fruit will be on family tables today. For some, 8 or 88 pieces of "quiat-quiat" (tiny golden oranges) are rolled from the main door to inside the house, and if necessary, to roll them upward on every step of the stairs in two-story homes for prosperity.

For those who were not quite lucky last year in the Year of the Rat, taking a bath with water boiled with pomelo leaves is said to cleanse away the misfortune of the past year.

After midnight last night, the use of knives and other sharp objects like scissors and needles is to be avoided, so as not to "cut-off the thread of good fortune," or "sever away the arrival of good fortunes" expected in the Chinese New Year of the Ox.

In tonight's feast, the central element of family reunions, the arrival of children working abroad adds an additional layer of joy and gladness to parents and grandparents.

Being the No. 1 holiday in China, the New Year is the peak of travel time for Chinese workers going home to join parents, grandparents, and other relatives for family reunions.

Today, Chinatowns in the major capitals of the world will be alive with dragon dances and the explosion of firecrackers to ward off the evil spirits of the old Year of the Rat while hailing the good fortunes of the new Year of the Ox.

Young and old alike will be wearing new red polka-dotted clothes and children await "ang pao" red envelopes from their elders. Children will be encouraged to stay awake until the early morning hours for their parents and grandparents to live long, healthy lives.

Having most family members present around dinner tables is a great source of contentment to parents and grandparent, an ancient secret of prosperity among Chinese families who believe that "only he who knows the meaning of contentment is truly prosperous."

Celebrating Lunar New Year

The days before Lunar New Year's are spent thoroughly cleaning and decorating the home (often with red banners, as red is considered especially auspicious), preparing special foods, getting a haircut and mending old clothes. Everything is meant to look fresh and new to set the tone of the coming year.

Red is said to be the luckiest color and most celebrants decorate their homes with red banners and dress in red for the celebrations.

Lunar New Year Ideas for celebrating:

Host a potluck and invite your friends and family over to celebrate the Lunar New Year with you. Be sure to decorate your home with red!

If there is a large Chinese community in your town or city, check to see what will be going on. Often dragon dances, parades and other festivities are scheduled and open to the public. Check your local listings or contact the local Chinese cultural center or cultural association. The bright and open celebrations are not to be missed!

Fireworks and Family Feasts

At Chinese New Year celebrations people wear red clothes, decorate with poems on red paper, and give children "lucky money" in red envelopes. Red symbolizes fire, which according to legend can drive away

See KUNG on Next Page

To the Chinese community
in the CNMI,
Kung Hei Fat Choi!
May we all prosper to this
new Year of the Ox!
牛
From the management and staff of
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TRANSAMERICA (SAIPAN) CORPORATION
Tel. No. (670) 234-1629, 235-5004

KUNG

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bad luck. The fireworks that shower the festivities are rooted in a similar ancient custom. Long ago, people in China lit bamboo stalks, believing that the crackling flames would frighten evil spirits.

Red paper scrolls

Chun lian are special Chinese couplets, often written on red paper, which are hung outside the front door of houses and businesses. The sayings are meant to bring luck and fortune to the dwelling for the coming year. Check out the following pages to learn more about chun lian and how to write a common Chinese verses in the beautiful Chinese calligraphy.

http://www.chinapage.com/duilian/chunlian0.html

http://www.chinatown-online.co.uk/pages/learn/class_newyear.html

http://www.newton.mec.edu/Angier/DimSum/new_year_g.html

Red Packets

Hongbao, or red packets filled with money, are given to children on Chinese New Year's by parents, grandparents, friends and other relatives to symbolize luck and wealth. Making red packets is a fun family activity that is easy enough for even young kids and a couple of dollars put into each makes them a well-received gift. Check out the following page for directions on how to make them:

http://www.chinatown-online.co.uk/pages/new_year/class_packet.html

Paper Lanterns

The Spring Festival (Chinese New Year's) lasts for 15 days and is marked at the end of it by the lantern festival (Yunxiao). Celebrating the first full moon of the year, paper lanterns were traditionally carried into the streets for a community parade and were often accompanied by fabulous folk dances, including the dragon dance. Some of the lanterns may be works of art, painted with birds, animals, flowers, zodiac signs, and scenes from legend and history. People hang glowing lanterns in temples, and carry lanterns to an evening parade under the light of the full moon. Try making paper lanterns to hang around your home as part of your Chinese New Year's celebrations.

In many areas the highlight of the lantern festival is the dragon dance. The dragon—which might stretch a hundred feet long—is typically made of silk, paper, and bamboo. Traditionally the dragon is held aloft by young men who dance as they guide the colorful beast through the streets. In the United States, where the New Year is celebrated with a shortened schedule, the dragon dance always takes place on a weekend. In addition, many Chinese-American communities have added American parade elements such as marching bands and floats.

Source: http://www.earthy-family.com/year-of-ox.htm

The year ahead

The Ox year is a conservative year, one of traditions and values. This is not a year to be outrageous. A slow but steady year.

This Ox year will bring stability and growth where patience and diligence pays off.

This is a year of harvest—when we reap what we have sown. Take care of business this year, do not let things slide.

We will feel the yoke of responsibility coming down on us this year. No success can be achieved without conscientious efforts. The trials and tribulations the Ox year brings will be mainly on the home front. It is a good time to settle domestic affairs and put your house in order.

Way-out fashions, abstract art forms and newfangled notions will be given an impassive stare by the phlegmatic Ox, while politics and diplomacy will simply be treated with indifference. Better stick to routine and support conservative policies. Frivolities are out!

RAT
1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996

People born in the Year of the Rat are noted for their charm and attraction for the opposite sex. They work hard to achieve their goals, acquire possessions, and are likely to be perfectionists. They are basically thrifty with money. Rat people are easily angered and love to gossip. Their ambitions are big, and they are usually very successful. They are most compatible with people born in the years of the Dragon, Monkey, and Ox.

If you were born in the year of the Rat: This year is a stable year for family life and will be a joyful year. Career wise the rats will take on more responsibilities and will feel the pressure of the extra duties. A good year of steady progress.

OX
1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997

People born in the Year of the Ox are patient, speak little, and inspire confidence in others. They tend, however, to be eccentric, and bigoted, and they anger easily. They have fierce tempers and although they speak little, when they do they are quite eloquent. Ox people are mentally and physically alert. Generally easy-going, they can be remarkably stubborn, and they hate to fail or be opposed. They are most compatible with Snake, Rooster, and Rat people.

TIGER
1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998

Tiger people are sensitive, given to deep thinking, capable of great sympathy. They can be extremely short-tempered, however. Other people have great respect for them, but sometimes tiger people come into conflict with older people or those in authority. sometimes Tiger people cannot make up their minds, which can result in a poor, hasty decision or a sound decision arrived at too late. They are suspicious of others, but they are courageous and powerful. Tigers are most compatible with Horses, Dragons, and Dogs.

If you were born in the year of the Tiger: This is the year for keeping a low profile, tigers. Because of the slow pace of the Ox year, it will be a frustrating time for you. You like things to be move quicker, you will need to show restraint.

RABBIT
1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999

People born in the Year of the Rabbit are articulate, talented, and ambitious. They are virtuous, reserved, and have excellent taste. Rabbit people are admired, trusted, and are often financially lucky. They are fond of gossip but are tactful and generally kind. Rabbit people seldom lose their temper. They are clever at business and being conscientious, never back out of a contract. They would make good gamblers for they have the uncanny gift of choosing the right thing.

See THE YEAR on Next Page

美國塞班中華總會

祝賀塞班島全體華人同胞己丑年

新春快樂

牛轉乾坤滿福門

春意盎然轉新機

Kung Hei Fat Choi!

CHINESE ASSOCIATION
SAIPAN, CNMI

Lion Dance Schedule

Monday, January 26, 2009

9:00 am	TSL Plaza
10:00 am	Saipan Grand Hotel
11:00 am	Hyatt Regency Saipan
12:00 pm	Palms Resort Saipan
3:00 pm	Subway-Gualo Rai
6:00 pm	Fiesta Resort & Spa
7:30 pm	Duty Free Shop

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

10:30 am	Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

Come and join us in our
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at Fiesta Resort & Spa.
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THE YEAR

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However, they seldom gamble, as they are conservative and wise. They are most compatible with those born in the years of the Sheep, Pig, and Dog.

If you were born in the year of the Rabbit: The year of the Ox is well suited to the rabbit nature. The slower pace of this year will see you spending more time with friends and family. A good year to upgrade your home, or for buying or selling a house.

DRAGON
1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000

People born in the Year of the Dragon are healthy, energetic, excitable, short-tempered, and stubborn. They are also honest, sensitive, brave, and they inspire confidence and trust. Dragon people are the most eccentric of any in the eastern zodiac. They neither borrow money nor make flowery speeches, but they tend to be soft-hearted which sometimes gives others an advantage over them. They are compatible with Rats, Snakes, Monkeys, and Roosters.

If you were born in the year of the Dragon: In business and in romance your word for this year is integrity. Keep your head down and you will make steady progress this year. Established relationships will be comfortable and easy during this year of the OX. A slow but sure progress will be made.

SNAKE
1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001

People born in the Year of the Snake are deep. They say little and possess great wisdom. They never have to worry about money; they are financially fortunate. Snake people are often quite vain, selfish, and a bit stingy. Yet they have tremendous sympathy for others and try to help those less fortunate. Snake people tend to overdo, since they have doubts about other people's judgment and prefer to rely on themselves. They are determined in whatever they do and hate to fail. Although calm on the surface, they are intense and passionate. Snake people are usually good-looking and sometimes have marital problems because they are fickle. They are most compatible with the Ox and Rooster.

If you were born in the year of the Snake: A very good year for Snakes! The steady pace of the Ox year is well suited to the snake person. Act on an opportunity - this is your year.

HORSE
1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002

People born in the Year of the Horse are popular. They are cheerful, skillful with money, and perceptive, although they sometimes talk too much. The are wise, talented, good with their hands, and sometimes have a weakness for members of the opposite sex. They are impatient and hot-blooded about everything except their daily work. They like entertainment and large crowds. They are very independent and rarely listen to advice. They are most compatible with Tigers, Dogs, and Sheep.

If you were born in the year of the Horse: Although you are rearing to surge ahead, this is another year of caution for the horse. Not a good year to strike out in new directions, consolidate your positions instead. On the brighter side, Love will bring comfort this year.

SHEEP
1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003

People born in the Year of Sheep are elegant and highly accomplished in the arts. They seem to be, at first glance, better off than those born in the zodiac's other years. But ram year people are often shy, pessimistic, and puzzled about life. They are usually deeply religious, yet timid by nature. Sometimes clumsy in speech, they are always passionate about what they do and what they believe in. Ram people never have to worry about having the best in life for their abilities make money for them, and they are able to enjoy the creature comforts that they like. Ram people are wise, gentle, and compassionate. They are compatible with Rabbits, Pigs, and Horses.

If you were born in the year of the Sheep: The Ox is the direct opposite of the sheep, therefore expect challenges in all areas this year. Keep a low profile.

MONKEY
1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004

People born in the Year of the Monkey are the erratic geniuses of the cycle. Clever, skillful, and flexible, they are remarkably inventive and original and can solve the most difficult problems with ease. There are few fields in which Monkey people wouldn't be successful but they have a disconcerting habit of being too agreeable. They want to do things now, and if they cannot get started immediately, they become discouraged and sometimes leave their projects. Although good at making decisions, they tend to look down on others. Having common sense, Monkey people have a deep desire for knowledge and have excellent memories. Monkey people are strong willed but their anger cools quickly. They are most compatible with the Dragon and Rat.

If you were born in the year of the Monkey: This is a year of moderate progress for monkeys. Work will slow down this year allowing the monkey more personal time. It also allows for quality time with friends and family.

ROOSTER
1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005

People born in the Year of the Rooster are deep thinkers, capable, and talented. They like to be busy and are devoted beyond their capabilities and are deeply disappointed if they fail. People born in the Rooster Year are often a bit eccentric, and often have rather difficult relationship with others. They always think they are right and usually are! They frequently are loners and though they give the outward impression of being adventurous, they are timid. Rooster people¡¦s emotions like their fortunes, swing very high to very low. They can be selfish and too outspoken, but are always interesting and can be extremely brave. They are most compatible with Ox, Snake, and Dragon.

If you were born in the year of the Rooster: Great opportunities for rooster this year. A good time to recoup losses. You will make great progress at work, reaping rewards of your labor. Emotional ties bring joy. Your prestige and reputation increase.

DOG
1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006

People born in the Year of the Dog possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people¡¦s confidence because they know how to keep secrets. But Dog People are somewhat selfish, terribly stubborn, and eccentric. They care little for wealth, yet somehow always seem to have money. They can be cold emotionally and sometimes distant at parties. They can find fault with many things and are noted for their sharp tongues. Dog people make good leaders. They are compatible with those born in the Years of the Horse, Tiger, and Rabbit.

If you were born in the year of the Dog: A year for dogs to keep a low profile. Put more attention into matters at home, spending quality time with loved ones. The simple pleasures will bring happiness this year.

PIG
1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007

People born in the Year of the Pig are chivalrous and gallant. Whatever they do, they do with all their strength. For Boar Year people, there is no left or right and there is no retreat. They have tremendous fortitude and great honesty. They don't make many friends but they make them for life, and anyone having a Boar Year friend is fortunate for they are extremely loyal. They don't talk much but have a great thirst for knowledge. They study a great deal and are generally well informed. Boar people are quick tempered, yet they hate arguments and quarreling. They are kind to their loved ones. No matter how bad problems seem to be, Boar people try to work them out, honestly if sometimes impulsively. They are most compatible with Rabbits and Sheep.

If you were born in the year of the Pig: A year for the pig to follow his/her instinct, laying foundations for the future. This is a bright and hopeful year for the pig. Do not take unnecessary risks though.

Source: http://www.earthyfamily.com/year-of-ox.htm

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Hope This New Year
Brings Shining Luck...
Flourishing Prosperity...
And Greater Success
In All Your Endeavors.

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Business

Obama touts aid plan's impact on average Americans

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama met with his economic advisers Saturday after he asked Americans to support his economic package as a way to better schools, lower electricity bills and health coverage for millions who lose insurance.

The two-hour session in the Roosevelt Room focused the proposed $825 billion economic stimulus package that Congress is considering. The group also discussed the upcoming federal budget, Obama's first chance to shape the country's spending amid a recession that lost 2.6 million jobs last year, the most in a single year since World War II.

AP

In this Jan. 23, 2009 file photo, President Barack Obama speaks to reporters during a meeting about the economy with Congressional leaders, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. From left are, House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. and the president.

"Our economy could fall $1 trillion short of its full capacity, which translates into more than $12,000 in lost income for a family of four. And we could lose a generation of potential, as more young Americans are forced to forgo college dreams or the chance to train for the jobs of the future," Obama said in a five-minute address released Saturday morning by radio and the Internet.

"In short, if we do not act boldly and swiftly, a bad situation could become dramatically worse."

It was the latest appeal from the new president for a massive spending bill designed to inject almost $1 trillion into the economy and fulfill campaign pledges. Obama spent much of last week wooing reluctant legislators - many from his own Democratic Party - and weighing whether there's a need for a second economic package, which aides refused to rule out.

That sequel would be designed to assuage Democratic lawmakers who fret that too little of the money is going toward public works projects that would employ their constituents. Others aides are trying to work with Republican leaders to sustain the current bill's bipartisan flavor; the president planned to visit to Capitol Hill on Tuesday to meet privately with GOP lawmakers.

House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio said his party would continue to push for immediate tax cuts - "not slow-moving government spending programs" - in the weekly GOP address.

"We let families, entrepreneurs, small businesses and the self-employed keep more of what they earn to encourage investment and create millions of new private-sector jobs," he said.

Republicans also proposed a tax credit for home purchases, an end of taxation of unemployment benefits and tax incentives for small businesses to invest in new equipment and hire new employees. Boehner was scheduled to make the case for the GOP plan on Sunday morning talk shows; Vice President Joe Biden and Obama economic adviser Larry Summers also planned interviews that morning.

"We cannot borrow and spend our way back to prosperity," Boehner said.

Both parties, though, agree something has to be done.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-MOS-038
(1/26/09)

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2009 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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ANY QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AND HAND DELIVERED TO **MS. BERNIE ITIBUS** AT THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, AT AFETNAS SQUARE IN SAN ANTONIO NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON ON **FEBRUARY 16, 2009.**

/s/ JUAN B. TUDELA
MAYOR OF SAIPAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Car dealers try to survive as economy, sales drop

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—At this year's version of the National Automobile Dealers Association convention, survival has passed maximizing profits as the focus of the annual event.

So as thousands of dealers from across the U.S. gathered Saturday in New Orleans, they were greeted by workshops entitled "Selling up in a down economy: Taking the bull by the horns" and "Tough times, tougher dealers: Saving your dealership's assets."

By almost all accounts, 2009 will be among the toughest years ever faced by the roughly 20,000 new car dealerships in the U.S., with sales of cars and lightweight trucks projected to shrink by as much as 6 million vehicles from the 16.1 million sold as recently as 2007. Sales last year were 13.2 million, down 18 percent from 2007, and December sales ran at an annual rate of around 10 million. Last year's sales were the worst in 26 years.

AP

In this Dec. 26, 2008 file photo, visitors look at the latest models of Toyota Motor Corp vehicles at its gallery in Tokyo.

The workshops, said convention Chairman Jeff Carlson, are designed to help dealers cope with 2009 and make it to the day when the auto market bounces back.

"It's our charge to serve the dealers and to help them do everything that they can to remain viable," said Carlson, who runs two Ford Motor Co. dealerships in Colorado.

According to the NADA, about 900 dealerships closed last year, largely due to the economy. Another 200 dealerships were opened, the association said.

Dealers selling cars made by Chrysler LLC, General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. are particularly under pressure with declining sales, and the automakers are seeking to thin their ranks to make the remaining dealers more profitable.

China dismisses US remark on currency manipulation

BEIJING (AP)—A top official at China's central bank has dismissed U.S. Treasury Secretary-designate Timothy Geithner's comment that President Barack Obama believes Beijing is "manipulating" its currency, state media said Saturday.

Su Ning, a deputy governor of China's central bank, was cited as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency that the remarks were "not in line with the facts."

"We thought in the face of the financial crisis, there would be a spirit of self-criticism beneficial to finding ways of resolving the issue and overcoming the crisis," Su said, adding that it was imperative to avoid any excuses to encourage trade protectionism.

In answers to questions submitted by the Senate Finance Committee, Geithner wrote that Obama, backed by the conclusions of a broad range of economists "believes that China is manipulating its currency."

However, Geithner also suggested that now might not be the right time to brand China as a currency manipulator under U.S. trade law, a designation that would trigger negotiations between the two countries and could result in U.S. economic sanctions against China.

He said Obama has pledged to use all the diplomatic avenues open to him to seek change in China's currency.

China has allowed the value of its currency to rise by 21 percent over the past two years. But American manufacturers complain that the Chinese yuan is still significantly undervalued, making Chinese goods cheaper for U.S. consumers and American products more expensive in China.

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND

NOTICE

NMI RETIREMENT FUND
INVESTMENTS PRESENTATION

The NMI Retirement Fund's Consultant, Merrill Lynch, will be conducting a presentation of the NMI Retirement Fund's Annual Investments Report on **Monday, January 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.**

In addition to providing information on the Fund's investments status, questions from participants at the presentation would be addressed accordingly by the Fund Consultants and the Board of Trustees.

We encourage the participation of key government officials and all interested members of the public, *most especially the retired and active members of the NMI Retirement Fund Program,* at this event in order to gain greater knowledge of the investments status of the Fund.

/s/ Mark A. Aguon, Administrator 01/22/09

Nation

Hudson River pilot: We were just doing our jobs

AP

Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, the US Airways pilot who landed in New York's Hudson River with all onboard escaping safely, smiles during a homecoming celebration on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009, in Danville, Calif. Applauding him are his wife Lorrie Sullenberger, left, and Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich.

DANVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Thousands of people holding signs and waving American flags cheered wildly Saturday to honor the pilot who safely landed a US Airways jetliner in the Hudson River. He told them he and his crew were only doing their jobs.

Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger was given a hero's homecoming, complete with a marching band, in Danville, the San Francisco suburb where he and his family live.

Sullenberger said he was grateful for the outpouring of support since the Jan. 15 emergency landing, and that he and his crew were only doing their jobs.

"Circumstance determined that it was this experienced crew that was scheduled to fly that particular flight on that particular day," he told the crowd.

"But I know I can speak for the entire crew when I tell you we were simply doing the job we were trained to do."

Sullenberger's brief comments were his first since he brought Flight 1549 to an emergency river landing in New York City. All 155 people on board survived.

The pilot's wife, Lorraine Sullenberger, said through tears that she was amazed at the warm treatment the family has received. She said she was not surprised by her husband's heroism.

"I have always known him to be an exemplary pilot. I knew what the outcome would be that day because I knew my husband," she said. "But mostly for me, he's the man that makes my cup of tea every morning."

ACROSS THE NATION

Waco cult leader's mother killed, aunt charged

HOUSTON (AP)—The mother of infamous Branch Davidian sect leader David Koresh has been stabbed to death, and Koresh's aunt was in custody on a murder charge Saturday. Bonnie Clark Haldeman, 64, was found Friday afternoon at the home of her sister, Beverly Clark, in a rural area near Chandler, Henderson County Sheriff Ray Nutt said. Chandler is about 175 miles north of Houston. "It's still under investigation, and we really don't know what the motive was or what caused this to happen," Nutt said Saturday. He said deputies were called to the home Friday and the two women were the only people in the house when deputies arrived. A knife believed to be the murder weapon was found. Clark, 54, was being held without bail pending a court appearance. Jail officials said she did not yet have an attorney to speak for her.

Parents sentenced in fire deaths of 2 children

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A husband and wife were sentenced to prison for the deaths of two of their children in a house fire, which was sparked by a candle after money relatives loaned them to restore utilities was used to buy drugs. Ryan Donachy, 26, of Swatara Township, was sentenced to 3 1/2 to seven years in prison under an agreement reached last month at the start of his trial. He pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and endangering the welfare of children. Debbie Donachy, 25, who had pleaded guilty a day earlier, was sentenced to just under three years to six years for involuntary manslaughter. She is eligible for a boot camp program that might allow her to be released sooner. The couple's 2-year-old son, Britton, and 1-year-old daughter, Onna, died in the house fire in November 2007. Authorities said the electric bill was more than a year in arrears.

Police: 2 shot dead, 7 hurt at Wichita, Kan., wake

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Police say two people were killed and seven injured in a shooting at a wake in southeastern Wichita. Deputy Police Chief Robert Lee tells The Wichita Eagle and KAKE-TV that all the victims of Saturday night's shooting were adults, but he did not know their ages or genders. One victim was reported in critical condition and four others were reported in serious condition. Lee says the shooting occurred around 9:30 p.m. during a wake at a house. He could not say how many shooters were involved but says some of the shots came from outside the home. No arrests have been made. Lee says police had trouble communicating because many of those at the house did not speak English.

Schumer the unseen hand in NY Senate choice

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) -- Democratic insiders say the selection of Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand to fill New York's vacant U.S. Senate seat showed the pivotal influence of senior Sen. Charles Schumer. Gov. David Paterson selected the little-known congresswoman over candidates Caroline Kennedy, backed by President Barack Obama and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and Andrew Cuomo, backed by Hillary Rodham Clinton and former President Bill Clinton. But at the news conference introducing Paterson's choice Friday, one big smile gave it all away, and it was on the Schumer's face. "Schumer was pushing her, he was really pushing," said a Democrat on Saturday who was told by Paterson that Schumer favored Gillibrand. The Democrat was familiar with the inner workings of Paterson's selection but spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the process.

Asia

China reports 4th bird flu death

BEIJING (AP)—A woman in China's far west has died from the H5N1 strain of bird flu, the Health Ministry said Saturday, the country's fourth death from the virus this year as the biggest festive season approaches.

The victim, a 31-year-old woman from Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang region, had been to a live poultry market before she fell ill on Jan. 10, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, citing Wang Xiaoyan, a deputy director of the regional health department. She died Friday.

A woman in eastern China, a teenage boy in southwest China and a woman in Beijing have also died from the disease this month.

A 2-year-old girl was also sickened with H5N1 but recovered. The Health Ministry said her mother, who like the toddler went to a live poultry market, had died of pneumonia in early January. Doctors said they could not confirm the cause of death.

China launched a daily bird flu reporting system for poultry and human cases Thursday, underscoring its concerns about potential epidemics.

Provincial health and agriculture departments must report to the Health Ministry, Agriculture Ministry and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce every day on whether there have been infections in their areas.

The Agriculture Ministry has also ordered increased monitoring and management of live poultry markets, especially before next week's Lunar New Year holiday, when people will have more contact with chickens and ducks while preparing celebratory meals.

Despite the new cases, the Health Ministry has said there was no evidence of a large-scale outbreak of bird flu. It said the illnesses were isolated, unrelated and did not show significant mutations of the H5N1 virus.

Indian PM has successful heart surgery

NEW DELHI (AP)—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh successfully underwent heart bypass surgery Saturday, doctors said, adding that he would be fit to campaign for upcoming elections.

Singh

The 76-year-old Singh, who has held office since 2004, has been expected to run as the Congress Party's candidate for prime minister in elections to be held before May.

Singh will be able to fully recover and resume his duties in six weeks, said Dr. K. Srinath Reddy, one of the team of 11 surgeons and doctors involved in the medical procedure.

The team included doctors from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the country's top state-run hospital, and the Asian Heart Institute.

"There won't be any restrictions on his campaigning," said Dr. A Sampath Kumar, another doctor on the team, adding that Singh chose to have the surgery at this time to make sure that he was fit in time for the elections.

Also running as candidates for Singh's party are star campaigners Sonia Gandhi, chief of the Congress Party, and her son Rahul Gandhi, both of whom represent the party in Parliament.

The procedure, which lasted nearly 11 hours, began early Saturday morning, said Reddy, adding that the prime minister was conscious and stable and being monitored in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Singh, who has a history of heart problems, complained of chest pains earlier in the week and underwent a series of tests.

100 WWII bombs unearthed beneath US Embassy in RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Construction workers accidentally unearthed about 100 bombs from World War II in the U.S. Embassy compound in the Philippine capital, but the explosives posed no immediate danger, police said Saturday.

The heavily corroded mortar bombs and artillery shells will be taken to an aerial bombing range in the northern Philippines for disposal, police Senior Superintendent Pablo Francisco Balagtas said.

It was not immediately clear if the ordnance was American or Japanese, Balatagas said.

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Rebecca Thompson said workers found the bombs Friday as they were digging the foundations for new visa and veterans' facilities at the seaside embassy. Workers and staff were immediately evacuated as a safety precaution while the police bomb squad removed the explosives, Thompson said.

Normal embassy operations resumed Saturday, she said.

Manila was the scene of heavy fighting between U.S. and Japanese forces during the liberation of the Philippines in 1945, and war-era explosives are often found in the city.

Pacquiao signs contract to fight Hatton

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Ricky Hatton and Manny Pacquiao will end up in the ring together after all.

The popular British fighter and the pound-for-pound king from the Philippines will fight on May 2 at the MGM Grand Garden in easily the year's biggest bout—one that appeared scuttled earlier in the week when Pacquiao refused to accept terms already agreed to by his promoter.

Pacquiao, who was coming off an easy win over Oscar De La Hoya last month, signed and faxed his bout contract to the headquarters of promoter Top Rank in Las Vegas on Friday.

The 12-round junior welterweight fight was expected to be a sellout, Top Rank spokesman Lee Samuels told The Associated Press.

"Manny Pacquiao is the most exciting, charismatic athlete in the world today. He has millions of fans worldwide," Top Rank chief Bob Arum said from Los Angeles, where he was promoting Saturday's welterweight title fight between Antonio Margarito and Shane Mosley.

"Now he has a new challenge in facing a champion in Ricky Hatton."

Pacquiao has won his last nine fights and captured a lightweight belt from David Diaz last summer. His enormous following extends from his home country to Las Vegas, which has become like a second home. Still, it's Hatton who was expected to bring the money.

Besides the audience that will tune in overseas, Hatton brought thousands of chanting, singing British fans to the United States for two of his last three fights, an easy win over Paul Malignaggi in November and his only career loss, a 10th-round knockout by Floyd Mayweather Jr. in December 2007.

The original agreement was for Pacquiao (48-3-2, 36 KOs) and Hatton to split their shares 50-50, with Pacquiao having a $12 million guarantee. Then Pacquiao demanded a bigger percentage, and a new agreement called for him to get a 52-48 split.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

VICENTE MUNA MANGLONA

APRIL 19, 1939 | JANUARY 20, 2009

His memory will live forever in the hearts of his:

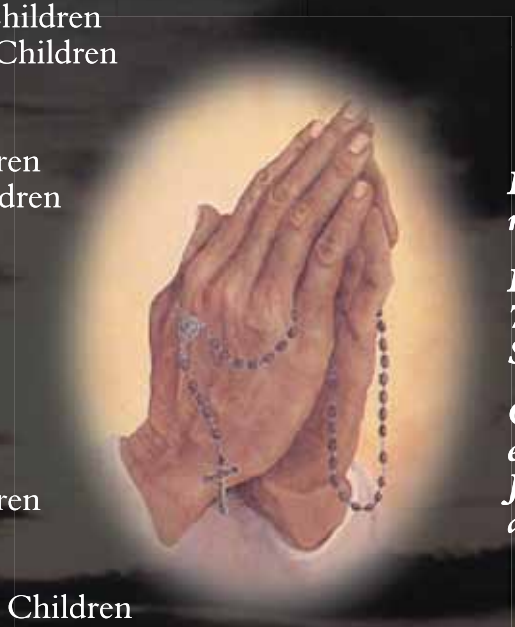
WIFE: **Rita Aquiningoc Manglona**

CHILDREN (GRANDCHILDREN & GREAT GRANDCHILDREN)

- †George A. & Keiko Y. Manglona (George Jr., Allen, Wendy, Billy)
- Cindy M. & John D. Attao (Geralyn, Jonathan, Lance)
- Norman A. & Katherine D. Manglona (Norman Vincent, Tavia, Storm)
- Charlene M. & Joseph T. Lizama (Ryan {Dre}, Joelene, Ritalene, Jonalene, Joseph Jr.)
- Lisa M. & Francisco S. Dela Cruz (Divana & Ray Salas {Raymana}, Dana, Damien, Deveney)
- †Julian A. & Brenda C. Manglona (Maxine) Mihaina P. Manglona (Monica, Chelsie, Gino, Audrey, Rachel, Demiana.) (Draeshia / Joden)
- Patrick A. & Marie P. Manglona (Seth, Aaron) (Erin Joy / Rita Nicole)
- Lori M. & Joseph K. Mendiola (Frankie)

BROTHERS, SISTERS & IN-LAWS:

- Magdalena M & †Henry V. Hofschneider & Children
- †Jose M. & Emiliana B. Manglona & Children
- †Nicolas M. & Esperanza Manglona & Children
- Herman M. & Lorenza M. Manglona & Children
- Maria M. & Bart Devine & Children
- Tito M. & Piding Sablan & Children
- Joaquin M. & Del C. Manglona & Children
- Thomas M. & Laura I. Manglona & Children
  - Lucas T. Manglona
  - Nancy T. Manglona
  - Norman T. Manglona
  - George T. Manglona
  - Glenn T. Manglona
  - Paul T. Manglona
- †Vicenta A. & †Luis Villagomez & Children
- †Juliana A. & †Tomas Cruz & Children
- †Mariano S.N. Aquiningoc
- †Jose S.N. & Consolacion Aquiningoc & Children
- Apolonia A. & †Jose U. Diaz & Children
- Maria S.N. & William Haun & Children
- †Pacifico S.N. & Rosa P. Aquiningoc & Children



In his new life, he now joins his:

PARENTS: †Lucas Ayuyu & †Concepcion Muna Manglona
PARENTS IN LAW: †Ignacio A. & †Manuela SN. Aquiningoc
CHILDREN: †George Aquiningoc Manglona
†Julian Aquiningoc Manglona

He will be greatly missed by:

Daniel E. Taitano, Venus Adtoon, Norberto Ebuenga, Nancy Ebuenga, Alice Mangornong, Ramat Lila, Vicente (Boyat) Lorenzo, Francisco Macasaro, Susan Castro, Digna Cando, Doi Ligan, Bala, Nellie Ebuenga.

He will also be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Rosary is being said nightly at Tinian Health Center at 7:45 p.m. Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at San Jose Church, Tinian.

On Wednesday, January 28, 2009, his remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center at 7:00 a.m. to San Jose Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Tinian Cemetery.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Rita Aquiningoc Manglona
Children & Families

World

Elections are test for al-Maliki, Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqis vote Saturday in the first nationwide election in three years, choosing provincial leaders in what amounts to a test of Iraq's stability as the U.S. plans to remove its troops.

In contrast to Iraq's three previous ballots since the U.S.-led invasion, which were held in the shadow of fierce fighting, this one is strikingly open.

In Baghdad and elsewhere, streets are festooned with colorful election banners, and candidates - many of them first-timers - have taken advantage of better security to hold public meetings where voters pose questions on such nuts-and-bolts issues as housing shortages and rising prices.

Although the races are local, the stakes are enormous - both for Iraq and the United States.

A credible election without significant violence would show that the security improvements of the past 18 months are taking hold. The outcome will also show which parties stand the best chance of success in parliamentary elections expected by the end of the year.

However, a deeply flawed election, marred by violence and allegations of widespread fraud, would cast doubt over Iraq's future and could influence President Barack Obama's decision on how fast to remove the 142,000 American troops.

Obama pledged during the presidential campaign to end America's role in the unpopular war and has ordered his national security team to prepare plans for a responsible withdrawal. U.S. officials warn that a hasty pullout could threaten Iraq's fragile security.

Tasmanian devils threatened by cancer

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The Tasmanian devil, a ferocious, snarling fox-sized marsupial, is in danger of going extinct because of a contagious facial cancer. In the meantime, its biggest rival—the European fox—is thriving, and may become so dominant that the devil never comes back.

Scientists now want to build a double fence standing more than three feet tall to stop the cancer's relentless spread toward the rugged northwest of the island, home to disease-free devils and World Heritage-listed rain forest. Devils spread the cancer when they bite each other during mating or squabble over food.

But for any chance of success, the fences would have to be completed within two years, said Hamish McCallum, the senior scientist in the devil rescue program. He predicts the devil will go extinct in the wild within 20 years.

The Australian island state of Tasmania is the only natural home for the world's largest marsupial carnivore, made notorious by its Looney Tunes cartoon namesake Taz. Its Latin name is Sarcophilus harrisii, or "Harris' meat lover," after the scientist who first studied devils.

Brazilian model who lost hands and feet dies

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)—One month ago, 20-year-old beauty queen Mariana Bridi was living the dream of many young Brazilian women, trading her striking good looks for a modeling career that promised to lift her family out of poverty.

Then she contracted a seemingly ordinary urinary tract infection. The bacteria spread quickly and inexorably through her body, proving to be extremely drug resistant. In a desperate bid to save her life, doctors amputated her hands and feet. But by Saturday she was dead.

"God is comforting our hearts because he wanted her to be with him now," her father Agnaldo Costa told reporters outside the hospital where his daughter died. "I can't accept that my daughter left us so soon."

Bridi's Web site says she began modeling at age 14 with the hope of giving "a dignified life to her parents."

Her father is a taxi driver and her mother a house cleaner.

AP

In this undated photo released by NOROCK, Brazilian model Mariana Bridi poses during a photo session in Vitoria, Brazil.

Pope lifts excommunications of 4 bishops

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI has lifted the excommunications of four traditionalist bishops, including that of a Holocaust denier whose rehabilitation sparked outrage among Jewish groups.

The four bishops were excommunicated 20 years ago after they were consecrated by the late ultraconservative Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre without papal consent - a move the Vatican said at the time was an act of schism.

The Vatican said Saturday that Benedict rehabilitated the four as part of his efforts to bring Lefebvre's Society of St. Pius X back into the Vatican's fold.

But the move came just days after one of the four, British Bishop Richard Williamson, was shown in a Swedish state TV interview saying that historical evidence "is hugely against 6 million Jews having been deliberately gassed."

Jewish groups denounced the Vatican for having embraced a Holocaust denier and warned that the pope's decision would have serious implications for Catholic-Jewish relations as well as the pontiff's planned visit to the Holy Land later this year.

"I do not see how business can proceed as usual," said Rabbi David Rosen, Jerusalem-based head of interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee and a key Vatican-Jewish negotiator.

He called for the pope or a senior adviser to issue a "clear condemnation" of all Holocaust denials and deniers.

Health

Figuring out how fit you really are

By HOWARD SCHNEIDER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

The holidays are over. The new year has begun. So let the nagging begin, right?

Nah, let's skip it. There's too much of that coming from the folks who want you to give them money. Signing up for a new exercise program may lower the level of guilt, but that alone won't get the work done. Instead, I asked a few trainers to offer simple tests you can do at home or on the way to work to check your strength, aerobic fitness, balance and all the other stuff we want to keep intact. Some are pretty basic. Others are a bit more challenging.

What you do with the results is up to you. There'll be no nagging here.

AEROBIC CAPACITY

There are lots of ways to evaluate fitness, but one of the most fundamental is to look at your ability to raise your heart rate, increase your breathing and use more oxygen to allow the muscles to do more work. Actual measurement requires access to the right equipment, but there are plenty of ways to get a rough idea of where things stand.

Such as walking up from a Metro stop. Lance Breger, head private trainer at Washington-based Mint Fitness, says that when you are looking up from the bottom of your station (particularly those deeper ones), go ahead and make the climb. If your stop has a staircase, take it. Otherwise, walk up the escalator. Check your breathing at the end. If you can speak in reasonable sentences without gasping for air, then you're in decent shape. If you have to make stops along the way or are breathless by the time you reach the top, then think about regular cardio training (such as taking the stairs every day?).

Mary Layne, owner of LifeStages Fitness in Northern Virginia, suggests a one-mile run or jog. For her younger clients, Layne would want them to cover the distance in maybe 13 minutes, or roughly 4.5 mph; if you are older, strive for a brisk walking pace of 3.5 mph, or about 17 minutes per mile.

Finally, Kenn Kihiu, who trains out of the Sport & Health chain's Rio facility in Gaithersburg, Md., offers this simple test for lung function (which also can serve as a basic deep breathing exercise). Good breath control figures into many types of exercise, and a slow controlled breath can be healthy and meditative in its own right. So get a full belly of air and see if you can perform a steady 30-second exhale. If not, try to work up to it: You'll find the practice itself relaxing.

STRENGTH

Upper body, lower body, back, abs: where to begin? Kihiu offers a simple (but challenging) test and exercise rolled into one: the wall squat. With your back against a wall and your feet shoulder-width apart, slide down and move your feet out until your knees are at a 90-degree angle, with the hips parallel to the floor. If you can hold the pose for a minute, Kihiu says, it is a good measure of lower-body strength and a strong indication that you'll avoid the routine pulls and strains that an unfit person can suffer from such simple motions as standing up or bending over. If you fall short, you can use the pose as an exercise to try to build strength. If needed, use a table or chair for support while moving into or out of position. Be extra careful if you have weak or problem knees.

For the upper body and for general core strength, Breger says to pay attention to some basic, everyday functions: Can you get your overhead bag into the compartment on the airplane without help? Can you get the grocery bags into the house and up the steps without a rest? Can you lean over the sink to shave or wash your face without a pain in your back? Can you get out of bed without rolling to one side and pushing up with your hands? (We hope you're saying yes.)

If you're in pretty good shape and looking for a goal, try the bench press, a classic measure of strength, Layne says: If men can press their body weight and if women can press half their body weight, that's a sign of good conditioning.

FLEXIBILITY

Can you touch your toes? Can you wash your back? Enough said.

BALANCE

Balance becomes increasingly important as we age. Falls and fractures are serious injuries for the elderly. Poor balance can stem from neurological and other problems, but it can also be a sign of poor muscle control and inadequate strength.

Layne recommends playing stork: Stand on one foot for half a minute, then switch sides. If you think you are going to have trouble, do the test near a wall.

Successful? Now try it with your eyes closed. Layne notes the importance of visual cues in helping us stay upright, and without that orientation it is easy to start wobbling or even make yourself a bit nauseated from the disorientation.

Breger takes us back on the Metro for a bit of subway surfing: See how much of the ride you can navigate without holding a handrail. It is probably best not to do this in a rush-hour crowd, and do keep a hand ready to grab a seat back if needed. But this is a fun test of reflexes and balance.

Now that you have the tools to test yourself, don't be afraid to give them a try. The truth is out there. What you do with it is up to you.

Brushing up on oral hygiene

Here are a few ways to prevent tooth decay and gum disease:

- Do not smoke.
- Limit alcohol to one to two drinks a day.
- Brush teeth twice a day.
- Replace your toothbrush every three or four months (sooner if the bristles are worn out).
- Floss daily (or use an interdental cleaner) to remove bacteria, plaque and food particles from between the teeth and under the gum line.
- Go to a dentist regularly for oral exams and cleanings. Adults should see a dentist every six to 12 months, depending on their oral health status. The American Association of Pediatric Dentistry recommends all children have their first visit at the time of the eruption of the first tooth and no later than 12 months of age.
- Eat a balanced diet; limit snacking, especially of sticky or high-sugar foods.
- Give supplemental fluoride to preschool children more than 6 months old whose primary water source is deficient in fluoride. ***(The Washington Post)***

ON THE NET
- www.cdc.gov/oralhealth
- www.ada.org/

Life & Style

Indiana student ill, but wins Miss America crown

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Katie Stam of Indiana was crowned Miss America on Saturday night, fighting off a throat infection, laryngitis and 51 other contestants to win the 88-year-old pageant.

The 22-year-old University of Indianapolis student drew loud applause for her rendition of "Via Dolorosa" during the talent portion of the pageant at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

The Seymour native also strutted onstage in a black bikini and an off-the-shoulder, white lace evening gown. During the interview portion of the competition she decried the use of performance-enhancing drugs among professional athletes and discussed the definition of glamour.

"That beauty that you feel on the inside, it's that confidence, that radiance inside of you, that's what glamour is," Stam said.

Stam won a $50,000 scholarship and hopes to obtain a bachelor's degree in communications and become a television news anchor. She began competing in pageants at age 15.

The first runner-up was Miss Georgia Chasity Hardman, who took home a $25,000 scholarship.

The 52 young women took to the stage in blue jeans, bikinis and ballgowns following a mini-reality series on pageant prep work and a week of preliminary competition.

After an opening dance number and the traditional parade of states, judges and fans immediately trimmed the field to 15 finalists. Five more were trimmed based on swimsuit and evening gown competitions, while the remaining 10 went on to showcase their dancing, singing and other skills during the talent portion.

AP

In this photo provided by the Las Vegas News Bureau, Miss Indiana Katie Stam is crowned Miss America 2009 by Miss America 2008 Kirsten Haglund in Las Vegas on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009.

"This gown nearly blinds people," Miss Arkansas Ashlen Batson said in a video clip played as she walked onstage in a silver dress with beading. Batson was eliminated before she could play her flute in the talent competition.

Miss Hawaii Nicole Fox drew cheers as she performed a traditional Tahitian dance, wearing a huge white feathered headdress and skirt to match. After she exited, part of her skirt remained on the stage.

In a new twist, viewers of a lead-in reality show, "Miss America: Countdown to the Crown" voted in four of the 15 finalists, while the judges announced the other 11 during a live TLC television broadcast.

The four finalists chosen by viewers were Stam, the eventual winner, and Hardman, the first runner-up, as well as Miss South Dakota Alexandra Hoffman and Miss Alabama Amanda Tapley.

Stam was crowned by reigning Miss America Kirsten Haglund of Michigan and will soon embark on a year of travel and public appearances.

The viewer interaction to name four contestants as "America's choice" was Discovery-owned TLC's attempt to stoke interest in this year's contestants. Once an American icon, the shine on Miss America's crown has been dimmed by slipping ratings and the popularity of more salacious reality shows.

The pageant was dropped from network television after the 2004 pageant drew a record low viewership. It found a home in Las Vegas after moving from its longtime location in Atlantic City, N.J., but it has struggled to get its footing on cable.

In its second year on TLC, Mario Lopez, of "Extra," hosted with an assist from Clinton Kelly of TLC's "What Not to Wear." Judges include actress Laura Bell Bundy, Miss America 1999 Nicole Johnson, hairstylist Ken Paves and Olympic swimmer Cullen Jones.

Sundance honors 'Push,' 'We Live in Public'

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) -- The Sundance Film Festival's prizes for best U.S. drama on Saturday went to "Push," the dark yet hopeful story of a young woman finding her way out of nightmarish circumstances in 1980s Harlem.

Based on the 1996 first novel by the poet Sapphire and directed by Lee Daniels, "Push" won both the grand jury and audience awards. The film version is subtitled "Based on the novel by Sapphire" to distinguish it from the Dakota Fanning-Chris Evans sci-fi thriller due out next month.

The penultimate night of the 11-day festival, the nation's premiere showcase for independent film, was marked by political references and jangled nerves.

Sundance Institute executive director Ken Brecher hoisted an honorary festival pass with the new U.S. president's name on it, and presenter Joseph Gordon-Levitt tugged at his red Barack Obama T-shirt, saying: "These awards are exercises in democracy, and it's a good time for democracy right now."

Gordon-Levitt cheered and gave Daniels a big hug before presenting the audience award to his film, which stars Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey and Paula Patton alongside newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, who plays pregnant 16-year-old Precious Jones.

"This is so important to me because this is speaking for every minority that's in Harlem, that's in Detroit, that's in Watts, that's being abused, that can't read, that's obese and that we turn our back on," Daniels said. "And this is for every gay little boy and girl that's being tortured. If I can do this ... ya'll can do this."

When he picked up the grand jury prize later in the evening, Daniels acknowledged: "I'm drunk. I got like three shots right after we got the last one."

The grand jury prize for U.S. documentary went to "We Live in Public," focusing on little-known Internet pioneer Josh Harris and his failed "lifecasting" art projects in 1999 and 2000. The film was directed by Ondi Timoner, whose "Dig!" won the same award in 2004.

Bahamas senator accused in Travolta plot resigns

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—A Bahamas senator accused of trying to extort money from actor John Travolta after his son's death resigned on Saturday and vowed to prove her innocence.

Sen. Pleasant Bridgewater, an attorney from Grand Bahama, said she plans to fight "untrue and unfair charges" stemming from actions she took as a lawyer.

"How these innocent actions can be so misconstrued, so perversely twisted to mean something other than it was, is a mystery," she said without providing more details.

Bridgewater could not be immediately reached for comment.

Travolta had filed a complaint of attempted extortion, according to police, but did not release any details of the alleged plot. The actor and his wife Kelly Preston have returned home to Florida with the ashes of their 16-year-old, chronically ill son, Jett, who died of a seizure this month at their family vacation home on Grand Bahama.

Authorities arrested Bridgewater Thursday on charges of abetment to extort and conspiracy to extort. She was released Friday on $40,000 bail.

The leader of Bridgewater's opposition party, former Prime Minister Perry Christie, said in a statement that he regrets the turn of events and accepted Bridgewater's resignation.

"I believe that this is the right and appropriate thing to do in these most unfortunate circumstances," Christie said.

Police also had detained ambulance driver Tarino Lightbourne and former tourism minister Obie Wilchcombe. Lightbourne is still in custody but Wilchcombe has since been released pending further investigation. The parliamentarian has described himself as a friend of Travolta who was with the actor shortly after his son died.

Tabloids earlier had quoted Lightbourne on his efforts to revive Travolta's son.

Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Marvin Dames said that Lightbourne was wanted for attempted extortion. He has not been charged.

Platonic soul mates mull a married life together

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I consider my best friend, "Randall," to be my platonic soul mate—like a brother, only closer. Randall is gay. I am a straight female. We have no romantic interest, but a deep and meaningful love nonetheless.

We have talked about raising children together, but in order to adopt in some states there is a requirement that the parents be married. Our state does not happen to be one of them.

Would it be considered duping friends and family to have a "real" wedding?

PLATONIC SOUL MATE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR PLATONIC SOUL MATE: There is no requirement that in order to be married a couple MUST have sex. If you and Randall wish to be legally married and have a "real" wedding, nothing prevents it.

HOWEVER: Before you take such a step, it is extremely important that you and Randall have an understanding and ensure that you are really committed to raising a child (or children) TOGETHER, even if one of you should meet someone. It would be sad, indeed, if after adopting, the marriage didn't work out and you wound up fighting over custody of the children. It happens all too often when "traditional" marriages fail, and it could happen to you unless you have a meeting of the minds.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: There is a bully at my daughter's school. My child is terrified to get on the bus in the morning and shaking when she comes home. She told me that the bully picks only on her. She has taken my daughter's lunch money, shoved her against the lockers and pushed her into one of the garbage cans behinds the school.

I have complained to the school board and to the bully's mom. It did no good. I can't afford to take my daughter out of public school and put her into a private school, and if I quit my job to home school her, we will have no source of income. I don't want my daughter to suffer any more than she already has. What should I do?

HEARTSICK MOTHER, RICHARDSON, TEXAS

DEAR MOTHER: I'm sorry you didn't tell the principal of your daughter's school what was happening before it went this far, because he or she would have been required to document the incident. Because your daughter has been robbed and assaulted and your complaints have not been addressed, you should contact the police and file a report.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am 16 and have been swimming my entire life. Swimming has brought me so much pleasure, I think everyone should have the opportunity to experience it.

My friend "Ethan" doesn't know how. He is 18 and nearly drowned in a friend's backyard pool when he was 8. He has been terrified of water ever since.

I have been trying to persuade Ethan to take swimming lessons, but he says it would be embarrassing to learn now at this age. He also says being a nonswimmer will not be a problem because he doesn't plan on ever going near water. I still think he should learn—in case he is ever in a situation that involves water.

What would be a less embarrassing alternative for him than swimming lessons at a public pool?

AQUATIC IN OTTAWA

DEAR AQUATIC: Private lessons at a private pool. And you are correct that everyone should know at least the basics of how to swim. Your friend may not plan on swimming for pleasure, but he should know what to do if a child or pet should get into trouble in a pool, at the beach, etc.

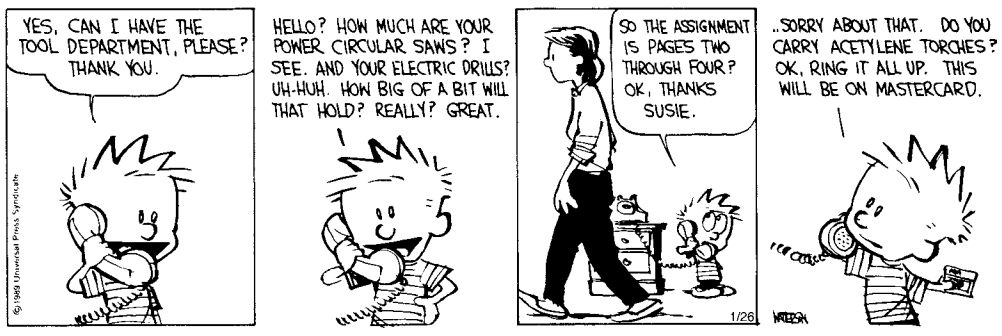
■■■

TO MY ASIAN READERS: Today marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year. This is the Year of the Ox. Those born in the Year of the Ox are steadfast and determined -- and that's no bull. To one and all, a Happy New Year!

Pastimes

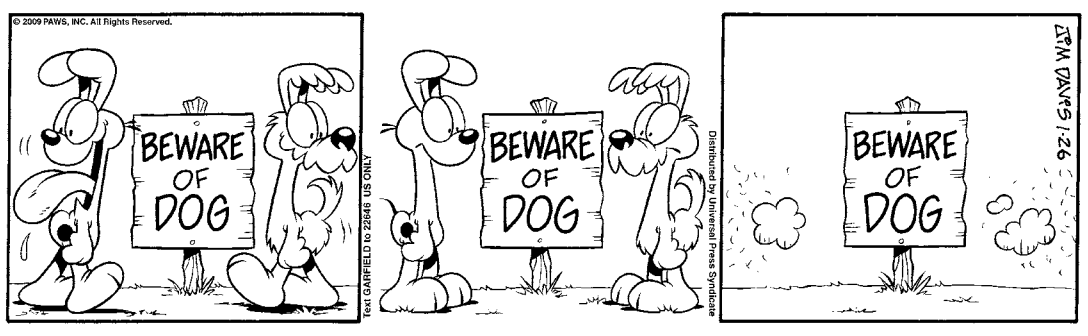
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YES, CAN I HAVE THE TOOL DEPARTMENT, PLEASE? THANK YOU.
HELLO? HOW MUCH ARE YOUR POWER CIRCULAR SAWS? I SEE. AND YOUR ELECTRIC DRILLS? UH-HUH. HOW BIG OF A BIT WILL THAT HOLD? REALLY? GREAT.
SO THE ASSIGNMENT IS PAGES TWO THROUGH FOUR? OK, THANKS SUSIE.
1/26
..SORRY ABOUT THAT. DO YOU CARRY ACETYLENE TORCHES? OK, RING IT ALL UP. THIS WILL BE ON MASTERCARD.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis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BEWARE OF DOG
Text GARFIELD to 22646 (US ONLY)
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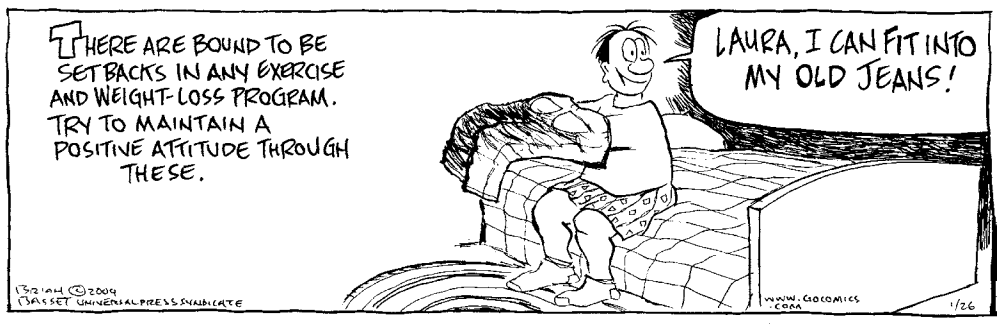
BEWARE OF DOG
JIM DAVIS 1-26

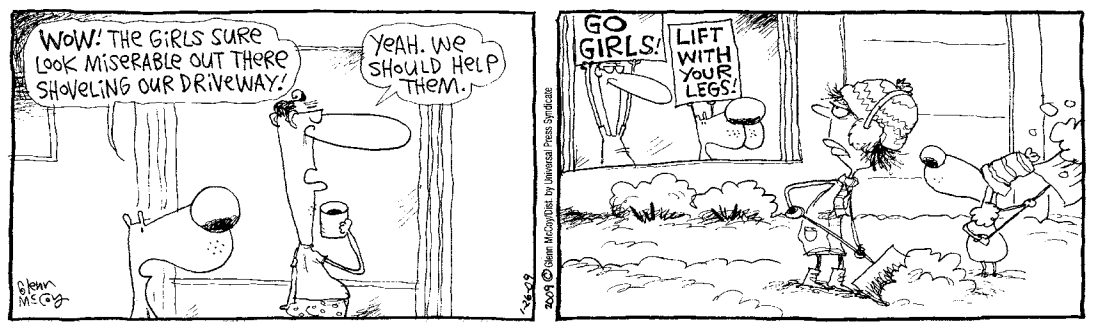
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THERE ARE BOUND TO BE SETBACKS IN ANY EXERCISE AND WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAM. TRY TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE THROUGH THESE.
LAURA, I CAN FIT INTO MY OLD JEANS!
BASSET ©2009 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM
1/26

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WOW! THE GIRLS SURE LOOK MISERABLE OUT THERE SHOVELING OUR DRIVEWAY!
YEAH. WE SHOULD HELP THEM.
GO GIRLS!
LIFT WITH YOUR LEGS!
2009 ©Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Exercise in the park
4 Duel tool
9 Method
12 Actress Gardner
13 "..., excavating for —"
14 A Gershwin brother
15 Potbelly
17 Fresh
18 Pub order
19 Greek islander
21 Moves on momentum
24 Loathe
25 Melody
26 Conk out
28 Sounds contented
31 Church furniture
33 Pompous sort
35 Golfer Aoki
36 Wields scissors
38 Snapshot
40 Old French coin
41 Memorandum
43 Second of two
45 Inn
47 Historic period
48 "That tastes awful!"
49 Wisconsin lake
54 Bikini half
55 Draw out
56 Prune
57 Stitch
58 Discourage
59 "Monty Python" opener

DOWN
1 Pugilist's shot
2 Eggs
3 Festive
4 Went like Columbus
5 Serious forgetfulness
6 Auction action
7 Tennyson's "— Arden"
8 Swathe anew
9 Maxwell Anderson play
10 Neighborhood
11 Show boredom
16 Bankroll
20 Needle case
21 Spaces
22 Collateral option
23 "Rich Man, Poor Man" author
27 Kreskin's claim
29 Track competition
30 Acerbic
32 Dalmatian feature
34 Librarian's request
37 Intoxicated
39 Life's work
42 Skip a phoneme
44 Bill
45 Centers
46 Shrek is one
50 Enthusiast
51 Foreman foe
52 Understood
53 Harvest goddess

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	R	K	■	P	L	O	W	■	W	A	I	F
B	A	H	■	L	I	M	A	■	R	I	C	O
E	V	A	■	A	M	I	S	■	I	D	O	L
L	I	N	E	I	N	T	H	E	S	A	N	D
■	■	■	E	N	S	■	T	A	T	■	■	■
B	U	I	L	T	■	F	U	R	■	J	A	Y
A	S	K	S	■	L	O	B	■	F	O	R	E
N	A	E	■	G	A	G	■	Z	O	N	E	S
■	■	■	S	A	W	■	C	O	W	■	■	■
F	I	F	T	Y	Y	A	R	D	L	I	N	E
A	C	R	E	■	E	T	U	I	■	R	O	Y
Z	E	A	L	■	R	O	S	A	■	A	P	E
E	D	G	E	■	S	P	E	C	■	Q	E	D

Saturday's answer 1-26

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12			■	13					■	14		
15			16						■	17		
■	■	■	18			■	19		20			
21	22	23				■	24				■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44			
45	46					■	47			■	■	■
48			■	49		50				51	52	53
54			■	55					■	56		
57			■	58					■	59		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kirk Franklin, 39; Wayne Gretzky, 48; Ellen DeGeneres, 51; Eddie Van Halen, 54

Happy Birthday: Be ready to take advantage of every opportunity because this year could be a turning point in your life. You will make new friends, discover new interests and expand your mind as long as you explore every avenue available to you. Don't sit idle and watch life pass you by. Your numbers are 5, 8, 11, 23, 31, 36, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Getting angry will not get you what you want. You have to set your own standards and stick to your plan of attack if you want to be successful. Too much involvement from outsiders will set you back. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take a powerful approach to whatever you do but don't give away your secrets. You have to walk a fine line today if you want things to move in your favor. Someone will use emotional tactics to cause you to lose focus. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't get involved with poor choices made by others. You don't want to be blamed by association. Focus on work, your position, your family and the improvements you can make in all areas. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can make some interesting changes at home that will improve your life and your outlook. Be careful not to let someone talk you into spending money on things you don't really need. Keep it simple. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may be talked into doing something that is far beyond your means or that can lead to trouble within partnerships. Overreacting toward someone you work with or must interact with will set the stage for the next phase in your life. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A change in a partnership will be to your advantage, so don't fight the inevitable. Observe others' actions and follow your own path in order to achieve the most. Don't be fooled by a big talker or a tempting offer. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Not everyone is going to get what it is you are trying to do but that cannot slow you down. Arguments can wait—what's important is accomplishment. Conservative individuals should be kept in the dark until you have something concrete to share. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You may have to be a little aggressive in order to bypass the obstacles in your way. Too many questions will leave you in an awkward position. Keep things simple and push as hard as you can to make things happen. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): There are changes to be made and options to be put into play. Be adventurous and try something new. The more inventive you are, the further you will go. If you aren't true to yourself, nothing will satisfy you in the end. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Tie up any loose ends before you decide to move on. If you need to make a point, now is the time to do so. Right now, the money you make or have should be kept in a safe place for your own benefit and security. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be a little out of control emotionally, physically and financially. Don't take on too much or promise what you cannot deliver. Keep things small and within your reach if you want to be successful. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): There has been too much left unsaid to move forward with your plans. Your patience will bring you the answers and the approval you need. Once you have everything and everyone in position, you will be able to move fast. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are incredibly innovative and imaginative. You are engaging and express yourself well. You are eager to make reforms.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5	8			6			3	
9					7			2
			2		1			
		6		4		2	8	
8			7		3			5
	1	5		9		4		
			6		8			
7			5					6
	4			3			5	1

Difficulty Level ★ 1/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	1	8	5	3	9	7	6
6	7	8	2	1	9	3	4	5
9	5	3	7	6	4	2	1	8
2	4	5	6	3	8	7	9	1
3	6	9	1	4	7	8	5	2
1	8	7	5	9	2	6	3	4
7	9	2	4	8	1	5	6	3
5	3	4	9	2	6	1	8	7
8	1	6	3	7	5	4	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE O'REILLY FACTOR VOCABULARY **Solution: 8 letters**

Y	K	C	O	W	R	E	B	B	A	J	S	B	P	H
E	H	T	A	G	O	G	V	O	L	U	B	L	E	S
F	S	E	I	N	E	R	I	S	B	M	S	O	O	I
E	I	R	C	O	T	P	I	U	A	C	E	V	B	B
C	L	C	E	N	D	A	C	U	A	T	I	I	M	B
K	R	O	K	T	U	N	N	T	I	R	L	A	P	E
L	U	N	P	L	I	D	H	K	A	G	U	T	O	N
E	H	O	K	I	E	I	S	G	E	D	D	Ⓔ	L	O
S	C	E	C	R	N	R	O	F	L	R	Ⓡ	N	L	L
S	J	L	I	G	E	E	A	I	E	Ⓐ	O	A	A	L
H	S	E	P	H	L	O	N	G	Ⓡ	S	W	U	W	I
R	U	M	T	E	N	D	E	N	T	I	O	U	S	U
E	R	A	I	Y	T	N	A	E	R	C	E	R	D	O
W	L	H	N	O	E	G	D	U	M	R	U	C	O	C
B	Y	C	T	S	I	L	U	B	A	F	N	O	C	M

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Agog, Bilge, Blatherskite, Bloviate, Cantankerous, Chameleon, Churlish, Codswallop, Confabulist, Couillon, Curmudgeon, Doit, Dunce, Feckless, Fickle, Incubus, Jabberwocky, Long, Maudlin, Maunder, Morose, Nebbish, Nitpick, Oaf, Opine, Rare, Recreant, Scathing, Shrew, Siren, Surly, Tendentious, Terse, Virago, Voluble, Word

Last Saturday's Answer: Contents

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2004 Nissan Murano AWD 4 SALE. Beautiful Pearl white. Fully loaded. 6-CD BOSE Stereo w/8 speakers. Call 285-1317. 13K OBO. KBB Value is $15,635.

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All joking aside

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, **Plaintiff,** vs. **JOSEPH S. CAMACHO** **Defendant.**	**Civil Action No. 08-0427** **AMENDED SUMMONS**

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT JOSEPH S. CAMACHO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for the Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.o. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 14th day of January 2009.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Advertise your company to the world!

The Saipan Tribune website averages 6, 994,897 hits and 204, 298 visits per month. That's an average of 225,641 hits and 6590 visits per day (average between Aug.-Oct. 2008).

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Heat end slide against Magic, 103-97

MIAMI (AP)—Mario Chalmers wasn't happy when Jameer Nelson pumped his fist after swishing a late 3-pointer that capped a huge comeback by the Orlando Magic.

He was thrilled, however, to land the knockout punch.

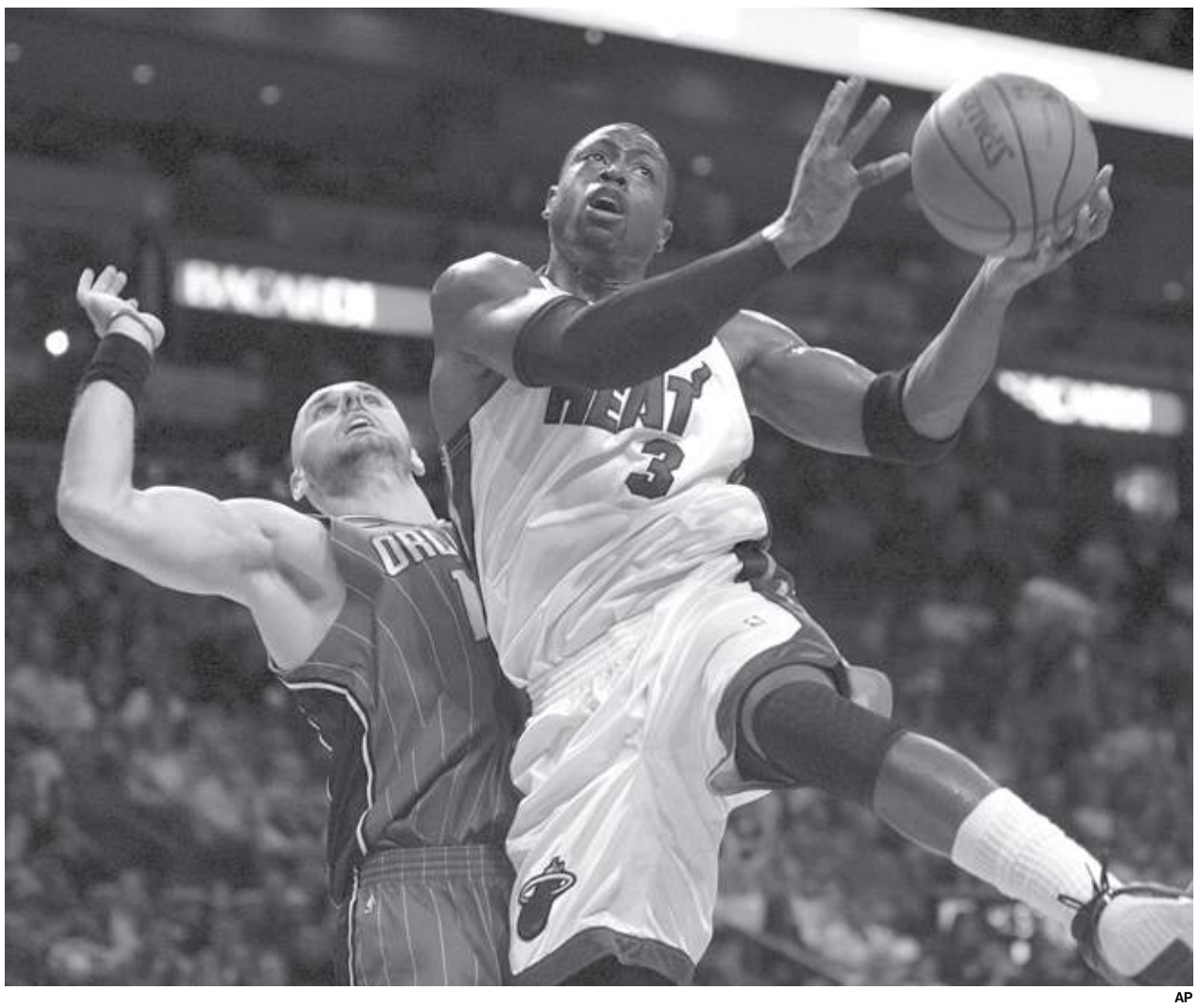
Chalmers stripped the ball from Nelson with 8 seconds remaining, ensuring that the Miami Heat—after 10 straight losses to their Sunshine State rivals—would beat the Magic 103-97 on Saturday night.

The Heat wasted every bit of the 15-point lead they carried into the final period, yet still found a way to beat Orlando for the first time since Feb. 15, 2006.

"We were able to turn it around, focus in and get the stops," Chalmers said.

Dwyane Wade scored 27 points, Chalmers added 20 and Udonis Haslem added 12 points—including two huge baskets down the stretch—for Miami, which finished with four turnovers, an all-time franchise low, to deal Orlando its second straight loss.

"It's very satisfying to get this one," Wade said. "We had to prove to ourselves, once again, that we can beat the elite teams."



AP

Miami Heat Dwyane Wade (3) shoots past Orlando Magic Marcin Gortat (13) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009. The Heat won 103-97.

Cavs 102, Jazz 97

In Salt Lake City, LeBron James scored 33 points, pulled down 14 rebounds and was just one assist short of a triple-double as the Cleveland Cavaliers held off the Utah Jazz 102-97 on Saturday night.

Mo Williams added 25 points and four assists, including three alley-oops to James, as the Cavs closed out a four-game road trip with their third straight win.

Cleveland's Anderson Varejao finished with 14 points and seven rebounds, going 7-for-8 from the floor while filling in for injured center Zydrunas Ilgauskas.

Deron Williams had a season-high 16 assists and scored 17 points for Utah, which had won seven straight at home.

Sixers 116, Knicks 110

In Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala scored 24 points and Andre Miller added 21 as the Philadelphia 76ers welcomed the return of Elton Brand to the lineup with a 116-110 victory over the New York Knicks on Saturday night.

Brand, who missed 16 games after dislocating his right shoulder on Dec. 17, had six points in 13 minutes off the bench. He entered the game for the first time with 1:26 left in the first quarter.

Thaddeus Young added 17 points, Willie Green had 14 and Samuel Dalembert had 10 points and 17 rebounds for the Sixers, who won for the eighth time in nine games and moved back to .500 at 21-21.

Nate Robinson scored 26 points, Tim Thomas added 24 and David Lee had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, whose three-game winning streak ended.

Nets 99, Grizzlies 88

In Memphis, Tennessee, Vince Carter scored 23 points and Devin Harris added 17 points and eight assists as the New Jersey Nets snapped a five-game losing skid.

The game was close early in the fourth quarter, but the Nets outscored Memphis 27-18 in the period, sending the Grizzlies to their ninth straight loss.

Bucks 106, Kings 104

In Milwaukee, Luc Richard Mbah a Moute hit a free throw with 3.3 seconds to go and Richard Jefferson scored 20 points for the Milwaukee Bucks.

One night after suffering their most lopsided loss of the season, 117-87 at Atlanta, the Bucks won a close game. It came despite Andrew Bogut missing his sixth consecutive game with back spasms and leading scorer Michael Redd leaving with a knee injury in the third quarter.

Despite poor economy, Super Bowl would not lose luster

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—The sagging economy has put a hit on plans for this year's Super Bowl, not that visitors to Tampa for the game and hundreds of millions watching on TV will be able to tell the difference.

America's bacchanalian bash in honor of football will still roll for the TV cameras with all its over-the-top glitz. Yet there are signs—fewer and smaller parties, maybe not quite so many reporters and traveling fans—that the shine will be a little less bright this year.

The game will still be sold out. The town will be crawling with party-hopping celebrities. Hotels will be busy, fans wearing Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals garb will be ubiquitous on the streets, and hundreds of media members will descend to cover the event, which will still likely be the nation's most-watched TV broadcast this year.

The impact of the nation's economic woes on the event are more subtle.

The Super Bowl Host Committee had to lower its fundraising goal by $1 million. Corporations that are sponsoring the game are sending fewer bigwigs to town. A couple of the big Super Bowl parties and other events were bagged, others are downsizing, and some media companies—especially hard hit by the downturn and the changing habits of news consumers—are sending fewer scribes to cover the game.

"No one is immune from the economy, not the NFL, not the host committee for the Super Bowl," said Reid Sigmon, the host committee's executive director.

The committee lowered its local fundraising expectation from $8 million to $7 million after sponsorships lagged, but it will still meet its financial obligations to the NFL, Sigmon said. The committee started early and got a lot of the money raised before the economy took a hard turn in late summer, he said.

The auditing firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers predicted the economy would be a factor on game week, resulting in "fewer visitors and media, a shorter average length-of-stay per visitor, and less spending in the hospitality and related industries throughout the Tampa Bay area."

The projected $150 million in direct spending tied to the game will be about 20 percent off what it would have been if the economy were stronger, the company said in a report Wednesday.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league tried not to spare any expense for this year's event, adding that "we're bullish on the Super Bowl and what it means to America."

If the NFL's private sponsors' party seems smaller this year, it's simply because some sponsors are sending fewer people to the game, which the league sees as its pinnacle event, McCarthy said.

As an "acknowledgment of what our fans are going through," a block of 1,000 game tickets were offered for $500 each—$300 less than the face value of most game tickets, he said.

Tourism officials say it's still too early to tell how well Steelers and Cardinals fans will travel and whether the area's more than 50,000 hotel rooms will fill up. Tampa Bay & Company, the area's tourism bureau, is reaching out to media outlets in the Pittsburgh and Phoenix areas to drum up business.

"We're still expecting 100,000 fans in Tampa Bay," visitors bureau spokesman Travis Claytor said, citing the estimated number of visitors expected for a typical Super Bowl.

The economic woes led Sports Illustrated and Playboy to pull the plug on their traditional high-end Super Bowl parties this year. Sports Illustrated spokesman Scott Novak said "it wasn't the right thing to do," given the state of the economy.

However, there will be no shortage of glitzy fetes and red carpet scenes around town in the days leading up the game. Among the hosts and other big names: Kevin Costner, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Jenny McCarthy, Carmen Electra, Pamela Anderson and T-Pain.

The Maxim magazine party is still on; it's just being downsized a bit. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend what has become one of Super Bowl week's most popular affairs.

"We're all cognizant of the difficult economic environment in which we operate, and our party reflects that," said Glenn Rosenbloom, co-CEO of Alpha Media Group Inc., which publishes the men's magazine. "So we're going to have it in a smaller venue and it will be more exclusive."

Viewers at home will get to see plenty of quirky Super Bowl commercials, as usual. Although Super Bowl regulars such as General Motors Corp. and FedEx Corp. opted out of advertising on the broadcast, NBC said it had sold 90 percent of Super Bowl ads as of mid-January.

MLB BRIEFS

Utley still hopeful for opening day

PHILADELPHIA (AP) —Philadelphia Phillies second baseman Chase Utley claims his rehabilitation from offseason hip surgery has been encouraging and hopes to be ready for opening day. Utley, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right hip in November, said Saturday that he wants to start swinging the bat in the upcoming weeks. However, the three-time All-Star also wants to proceed cautiously in his recovery. "It's not trying to find a way - it's listening to my body," Utley said during a greeting session with fans at Citizens Bank Park. "Right now, we are listening, and it's responding well. If that continues to happen, then I don't see why I won't be ready for Opening Day.

Lyon, Tigers agree to $4.25M, 1-year deal

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Tigers compiled a list of candidates to bolster their bullpen this offseason. "It's been in my pocket all winter," team president Dave Dombrowski said Saturday. The list is now filed away because the Tigers and right-handed pitcher Brandon Lyon agreed to a $4.25 million, one-year contract. The Tigers desperately needed a closer to replace the retired Todd Jones and compete with Fernando Rodney. But Detroit wasn't going to bid for free agent Francisco Rodriguez, who signed a $37 million deal with the New York Mets, or give Kerry Wood the $20-plus million he got from the Cleveland Indians.

Hoffman greeted by big Brewers fan turnout

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Career saves leader Trevor Hoffman already has his trademark "Hells Bells" ready for Milwaukee. Next up, a chat with the radar gun operator at Miller Park. The 41-year-old Hoffman signed with Milwaukee two weeks ago and was introduced Saturday at Milwaukee's two-day fan festival with thousands watching. Hoffman, whose $6 million, one-year deal includes up to $1.5 million in incentives, is not an overpowering pitcher. He's relied on his changeup for the majority of his 554 saves, including 30 of 34 chances last season.

Top-seeded Jankovic ousted in Melbourne

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Top-seeded Jelena Jankovic was knocked out in the fourth round of the Australian Open, and will have to search elsewhere for her first Grand Slam title.

Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli, the 2007 Wimbledon finalist, broke Jankovic's serve twice in the first set en route to a 6-1, 6-4 win Sunday and a place in the quarterfinals.

"I tried to not think about it for the whole match," Bartoli said of Jankovic's No. 1 ranking. "This is my first time playing in Rod Laver Arena. I think I just played amazingly today and I'm so glad to put on a good performance."

The 16th-seeded Bartoli had not been past the second round in seven previous trips to Melbourne Park.

Critics questioned whether Jankovic could convert her numeric ranking into a victory in the championship match at a major. She was a semifinalist at the Australian Open and French Opens last year before losing the U.S. Open final to Serena Williams.

When Bartoli turned up the pressure Sunday, Jankovic tightened up again.

Bartoli was the aggressor, repeatedly sending Jankovic serves back faster than they came over and standing two steps inside the baseline for second serves.

Bartoli hits two-fisted, flat and hard from both sides, and she peppered the lines and corners. Jankovic, repeatedly covering her face or looking to her mother for support and guidance, seemed shellshocked after falling behind 5-0 in the first set despite shouts of "Let's go JJ!" from the crowd.

Jankovic fended off two set points while serving at 1-5, but Bartoli easily held in the next game, finishing off the set with a deft drop shot that caught Jankovic behind the baseline.

Increasingly tentative and bewildered, Jankovic twice lost points early in the second set by stopping play on Bartoli shots that she thought were long but replays showed caught the line. She used up her last challenge of the set in the sixth game.

Serbia's Jelena Jankovic reacts as she plays France's Marion Bartoli during their women's singles match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009.

AP

Bartoli broke to pull ahead 5-4 in a game that went to deuce six times, with Jankovic netting a backhand on breakpoint.

Jankovic wanted to challenge Bartoli's winner in the next game but couldn't. The Frenchwoman went on to hold despite a twitchy double fault at 40-15, whacking a forehand winner down the line and raising her arms in jubilation.

Last Saturday night, men's No. 1 Rafael Nadal ripped 53 winners in a 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 victory against Tommy Haas.

Nadal kept his unforced errors to a frugal eight - and to just one in the 43-minute second set

"I played one of my best matches here at the Australian Open," said Nadal, who has improved by one round in each of his five trips to Australia. To continue that sequence, he'll have to make the final.

Andy Murray won 11 straight games during a 7-5, 6-0, 6-3 win over Austrian Jurgen Melzer.

And the 21-year-old Murray thought he'd been miserly with his 10 mistakes against No. 31 Melzer.

He was broken when serving for the match at 5-1 and wasted two match points in the subsequent game before finishing off with an ace.

Right now, fourth-seeded Murray isn't Nadal's major concern.

He's got 2007 Australian Open finalist Fernando Gonzalez next. The 28-year-old Chilean rallied from two-sets down and saved match point en route to a 3-6, 3-6, 7-6 (10), 6-2, 12-10 win over Richard Gasquet of France.

Fifth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, losing finalist last year, joined fellow Frenchmen Gael Monfils and No. 6 Gilles Simon in the fourth round. He next faces No. 9 James Blake, the second American to reach the final 16 after Andy Roddick.

No. 7 Roddick has a match against Spaniard Tommy Robredo on Sunday night.

Roger Federer's quest for a record-equaling 14th major continues when he plays 20th-seeded Tomas Berdych in an afternoon match on Rod Laver Arena.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic has the closing match on center court.

On the other side of the women's draw, Serena Williams had 6-1, 6-4 win over China's Peng Shuai on Saturday, moving closer to a 10th Grand Slam title.

Williams next faces No. 13 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, who ousted 2006 Australian Open and Wimbledon champion Amelie Mauresmo.

Mosley knocks out Margarito in ninth

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shane Mosley dominated from start to finish, knocking out Antonio Margarito for the first time in his career in the ninth round Saturday night to win the WBA welterweight title in a stunning upset.

Margarito was coming off an impressive victory over previously unbeaten Miguel Cotto six months ago, and boxing experts had tabbed the 30-year-old slugger one of the top pound-for-pound fighters.

But Mosley must not have been paying attention.

Despite his advancing age, the 37-year-old Mosley used his superior quickness from the beginning, and Margarito never was able to display the power and fortitude he showed against Cotto.

"It was my strategy, my focus, my game plan," Mosley said when asked what won the fight. "It was a tough fight, but it was a great plan. It was my left hook. I caught (Fernando) Vargas with it, I caught (Ricardo) Mayorga with it.

"He's a tough fighter, he had a lot of endurance. I prepared very hard, I trained hard. He was very powerful, but he couldn't resist my rhythm."

Mosley brought in Nazim Richardson to train him for this fight, replacing his father, Jack. That move worked to perfection.

"When you have a great game plan and an excellent athlete, then everything works out very well," Richardson said.

The bout was held before an announced crowd of 20,820—largest to attend a sporting event at Staples Center since it opened in October 1999. The fans were clearly pro-Margarito despite the fact that Mosley grew up in suburban Pomona, but it meant little once the bout began.

"I feel OK. I was just getting caught over and over," said Margarito, who was taken to a hospital to be checked out.

Margarito, of Tijuana, Mexico, didn't win a single round on one judge's scorecard, one on another and two on the third before the ninth. The Associated Press had Mosley every round but one.

Mosley, who weighed the maximum 147 pounds, raised his record to 46-5 with 39 knockouts. Margarito, known as the "Tijuana Tornado," weighed 145.8 pounds. He dropped to 37-6 with 27 knockouts.

Both fighters earned around $2.4 million.

While the 30-year-old Margarito was at his best in beating Cotto, Mosley certainly wasn't in his last outing, a 12th-round knockout of Mayorga four months ago at Home Depot Center in nearby Carson. Mosley was ahead on two of the three judges' scorecards when the end came in that fight.

Mosley was far better against Margarito. Mosley lost a close but unanimous 12-round decision to Cotto before that, on Nov. 10, 2007, and said afterward he'd love another shot at Cotto.

Before the fight, HBO's Larry Merchant reported Margarito had to have his hands rewrapped after a complaint by Richardson during his pre-fight inspection.

AP

Shane Mosley, right, connects with Antonio Margarito, of Mexico, in a WBA welterweight title boxing match on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009 in Los Angeles. Mosley won by TKO in the ninth round.

Stricker takes lead at Hope Classic

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP)—Steve Stricker found it hard to believe the number Joe Durant had thrown out. "Joe Durant was on my flight (from Hawaii) and I asked what his winning score was here and he said 36 under. And I'm like, `That's unbelievable,'" Stricker recalled.

Suddenly it's not so far-fetched.

Stricker shot a 10-under 62 on Saturday to reach 33 under and overtake Pat Perez after 72 holes in the birdiefest known as the Bob Hope Classic.

With 18 holes remaining, Stricker and Perez, three shots back at 30 under, both have a chance to rewrite the PGA Tour's 90-hole record Durant set in 2001.

"It almost seems like you can't reach that goal," Stricker said. "But here we are. We're one day away from making, maybe breaking that record, which is incredible."

Stricker shot 61 during the third round Friday to move into contention, and he birdied his final four holes of the fourth round to move ahead of Perez, the leader each of the previous three days.

After another of what has been a string of warm, windless days in the desert, Stricker was at 255, with his 33 under bettering the tour's 72-hole mark of 31 under set by Ernie Els in the 2003 Mercedes Classic.

Stricker's 61-62 also was a tour low for consecutive rounds. Mark Calcavecchia set the record by shooting 60-64 in the 2001 Phoenix Open, and Perez tied it with his 61-63 start in the Hope.

Tommy Armour holds the record for lowest 72-hole score, winning the 2003 Texas Open on a par 70 course at 254, which was 26 under. Durant's total at the 2001 Hope was 324.

Stricker summed up his play so far.

"I've done a lot of good things. I haven't made too many mistakes. And I've been trying to make as many birdies as I can," he said. "Fortunately, I have been."

So have a ton of other players.

As a yardstick of how low the scoring has been in the always par-as-a-memory Hope, the cut came at 15 under, lowest ever for a tour event. Jesper Parnevik, the 2000 champion, shot 61 in the fourth round and still missed the cut by a stroke.

Perez played at Bermuda Dunes and had his second consecutive 67, leaving him alone in second at 258. In one of the earlier groups to tee off, he took the lead into the clubhouse while Stricker was still reeling off birdies - including his final four holes - on the Nicklaus Course at PGA West.

Those two players may be dueling for the title over the final 18 holes, because the closest pursuers were Bubba Watson (63), Robert Garrigus (66) and Vaughn Taylor (68), seven shots off the lead at 262.

Garrigus figures he'll have to go ultra low to have any chance.

"I'm going to have to shoot 58 to finish second, I think," he said, grinning. "If there's no wind, they're going to have to stick the pins in the bunkers for us to not shoot 65 or 64."

After rotating among four courses and playing with amateurs the first four days, the pros go it alone on Sunday over the Palmer Course at PGA West.

Perez said he feels good about his game heading into the final round.

DCCA stretches win streak to 11

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs stretched its winning run to 11 by beating the Beach Boys, 13-5, Thursday night in the 2008 Budweiser Inter Government/ Business Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The defending champion quickly erected a commanding 7-0 lead after two complete innings with Joey Dela Cruz connecting on a two-run homerun in the first, on the way to a lopsided win.

The Beach Boys' BJ Sablan and JR Suel also came up with two-run homers each in the fifth and seventh innings, respectively, but these did not change the color of the game.

Both teams' scored one run each in the third with Pete Camacho scoring for DCCA and Stan Aldan connecting for the Beach Boys.

But DCCA came up with four more in the fifth courtesy of Camacho, Jun Saralu, Bob Lizama, and James Fleming.

The Beach Boys had only two at the bottom fifth with Aldan and Sablan scoring.

The Beach Boys, who stayed in seventh place with a 6-3 record, scored two more in the six from Harlan Reyes and Mel Sablan, while Saralu gave DCCA its last run of the game in the seventh.

POI 13, Law & Order 4

POI improved its record to 5-4 and climbed to ninth from 12th place with a 13-4 drubbing of Law & Order.

Outfielders Jun Kaipat and Kyle Kaipat led POI's offense with three runs each.

Jun was 3-for-4 at-bat, making one homerun, one double, and one RBI, while Kyle went 4-for-4 and had one homerun and two RBIs.

Tony Lizama also helped POI in offense with two runs. He hit 3-for-4 at-bat and had two doubles and one RBI.

Law & Order dropped to a 3-7 card for 13th place.

CHC 12, Hopwood 8

In the other game, Commonwealth Health Center recovered from a sluggish start to defeat cellar dweller Hopwood, 12-8.

Hopwood, which is still winless after 10 games, failed to sustain a 5-0 lead at the top of the first inning, as CHC gradually went to the driver seat, 6-5, after four complete innings.

Ben Hickings and Tom Diaz made it 8-5 for CHC after the full fifth. Mario Palacios managed a run for Hopwood in the fifth to cut the deficit to 6-8, then Fred Salavera and Jun Salavaria tied the score at 8-all.

Lefty Shiro, Joe Tenorio, Tom Diaz, and John Duenas all reached home plate in the last inning, as CHC won its third game in the season after 10 outings.

SWEEP

From Page 28

just did what I needed to do," he said.

Urquizu said he has high respects for Marianas fighters and left them with an advice.

"They should keep on training hard. Stay focus on it," he said.

The semi-main event also ended quickly as Guam's Hosea Ware prevailed against another Marianas Elite fighter Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo in their middleweight division (85lbs) match-up.

Guest referee from Guam Baby Joe Taimanglo, one of the popular mixed martial arts fighters in Guam, stopped the fight via tap out just before the end of the first round.

The 19-year-old Ware improved his record to 6-1, while Teregeyo went 4-4.

"It's nice to be here on Saipan and it's been a wonderful night," said Ware, who represents Spike 22 Ground-Fu and was in his first fight outside of Guam.

Ware plans to rest for a few days to savor his latest win before going back to the gym.

"It's a beautiful win. I'm still young, I just need a few rest before I hit the road, again," he said.

The four other Guam fighters who won over their respective opponents from Saipan were Ray Apiag, Peter Alvarez, Robert Basa and Tony "The Wreck" Reyes.

Reyes outsmarted Derick "Pinchi" Rangamar of Marianas Elite in the featherweight division (140lbs) after one minute and 24 seconds in the first round winning via tap out.

Reyes picked up his third win in as many bouts, while Rangamar absorbed his fourth loss in seven fights.

Apiag debuted with a first round victory over Fiden Teregeyo in the featherweight division (145lbs).

Alvarez of SMTM Guam also took his first fight win via a first round tap out against Joe Aldan of Predators in another featherweight bout.

Basa scored the first TKO of the night in his first ring match downing Reagan Mality of Pwang after only one minute and 24 seconds in the first round.

Mality dropped to a 0-3 slate.

In other results, Jerome Fujihara of Trench Tech won by unanimous decision over Jacob Ilo of Zalaka in the bantamweight division (135lbs), while Jordan Ogo of Team Haga defeated Berry Mality in the third round via a tap out in the flyweight division (125lbs).

Mark "The Dark' Nuque of Trench Tech won via tap out against Stanley Ogo of Team Haga after two minutes of their bout in the lightweight division (153lbs).

In another bantamweight match-up, Kevin Estevez of Marianas Elite scored a tap out win against Daniel Ogo of Team Haga in just over one minute of the first round.

Korean Seung Min Lee of Trench Tech scored a unanimous decision (30-25, 30-27, 30-27) victory over Hen "The Legen" Taga in their lightweight division fight.

Martin Ayuyu of Marianas Elite defeated Francisco Palacios of DAT Gym in the featherweight division (140lbs).

Another Korean fighter, Tom "Lite's Out' Kim of Trench Tech, sealed his third win in three fights via a rear naked choke off EJ Palacios in 1:41 of the first round in the lightweight division.

Kyle Peterson of Trench Tech USA also joined the march via a second round tap out win off George Cruz in the middleweight division.

In the lone ladies division match-up, Stacey Rangamar retired Mocklin Enisar in the second round.

Rick "The Slick" San Nicolas was a no-show, again in his scheduled fight against Stan Tuwun.

SBA

From Page 28

ers from SBA participated in the Inter-City meet held at the 24-lane Macau Bowling Center in Taipa-Coloane. The list included Ross Zapanta, Jorge Soledad, Ador Dimaano, and Percy Omechalang.

The Saipan keglers were pitted against bowlers from Taipei City, Chinese Taipei; Tamuning, Guam; Happy Valley, Kowloon, and Victoria, Hong Kong; Bangalore, Chennai, and Delhi, India; Daegu, Pohang and Uiwang, Korea; Kuantan and Shah Alam, Malaysia; Macau, Macau Coloane, and Macau Taipa; Paranaque City and Pasay City, Philippines; and Singapore.

Besides the Inter-City tournament, Tan is encouraging SBA bowlers to join Guam Bowling Association's Annual Guam International Open.

"This is not a team format tournament, but does attract many top caliber bowlers from Asia to join as individual bowler," Tan said.

"So I hope SBA can also encourage a few of our top bowlers to join this tournament since the cost of joining a Guam tournament is much lower than other countries," he said.

Tan added competing in Guam will give Saipan bowlers the needed exposure to move their game to the next level.

"We have good bowlers here and it will be great if they will play against Guam and some top players from Asia through the Guam Open besides the regular tournaments we have here," Tan said.

SBA is holding 12 monthly tournaments for male, female, and youth keglers on Saipan. The association also has weekly tournaments, Masters tournament, PBA Player of the Year, and the Annual PBA Classified in its calendar of events.

LG

From Page 28

Leading the pitching lineup are Bong Joong Keun and Park Myeong Hwan.

Bong played for the Korean National Team and helped the Koreans won the gold medal against Team USA in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Also part of that Olympic gold medal team was the Twins' outfielder Lee Jin Young.

The Twins, who finished last in the eight-team league last year, took the former SK Wyverns' LJ Young from the free agency market, along with infielder Sung Hoon Chung of Heroes.

Kim hopes that Bong and Lee JY will use their Olympic experience to inspire their teammates in their bid to regain the crown.

The Twins won the title during their first year in the league in 1990 with Kim on the team.

They won their second crown in 1994, but are now on a 14-year title drought.

For the past three years, the Twins had been holding their off-season training camp on Saipan.

"The weather here is hot. It's cold in Korea now, so we are basically here for physical conditioning. It is good for the players to build their muscles," Kim said.

The Twins are conducting their training at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, which are closed for local tournaments to give way to the spring training camp.

Kim said the rough surface and small size of the two ballfields at the Oleai Sports Complex are ideal for such training camp.

Meanwhile, the Lotte Giants, another Korean pro baseball team, are also holding a separate camp at the Kan Pacific facility in Marpi.

These training camps help boost the dwindling tourism industry in the CNMI.

The Twins are staying at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. They brought in 43 players, 10 coaches, and five trainers on Saipan.

MIGS

From Page 28

Days, RBC Rollers, Docomo, Athlete's Foot, Uncle Ben, Inscape, MBI, 670 Rollers, Mobil, and the San Antonio Shooters.

As of Friday, Dollar Days and the RBC Rollers are tied for the lead with identical 3-0 records, while Docomo is also unbeaten and is in second place with a 2-0 slate.

Athlete's Foot holds a 2-1 mark, while MIGS and Uncle Ben have similar 1-1 records. Inscape, IT&E, and MBI are tied for seventh to ninth place as they all have a 1-2 slate. Three teams have yet to win with the Shooters losing their debut, 670 Rollers dropping their first two games, and Mobil having a 0-3 start.

League coordinator Dante Olivos said the inaugural caging will have a single-round robin format in the regular season with the top eight teams advancing to the playoffs.

The playoffs will be single-elimination with the top four squads moving into the next round. The championship showdown will be a best-of-three affair.

Games in the Navy Hill league are played every day. There are two matches per playing day with Monday to Saturday's games starting at 7pm. The first game every Sunday begins at 5pm.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	9	.800	_
Philadelphia	21	21	.500	13 1/2
New Jersey	20	24	.455	15 1/2
New York	18	25	.419	17
Toronto	17	28	.378	19

Southeast Division

Orlando	33	10	.767	_
Atlanta	26	16	.619	6 1/2
Miami	23	19	.548	9 1/2
Charlotte	18	25	.419	15
Washington	9	34	.209	24

Central Division

Cleveland	34	8	.810	_
Detroit	24	18	.571	10
Milwaukee	22	25	.468	14 1/2
Chicago	18	26	.409	17
Indiana	16	27	.372	18 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	29	13	.690	_
New Orleans	26	14	.650	2
Houston	27	17	.614	3
Dallas	25	18	.581	4 1/2
Memphis	11	32	.256	18 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	28	15	.651	_
Portland	26	17	.605	2
Utah	25	19	.568	3 1/2
Minnesota	14	27	.341	13
Oklahoma City	9	35	.205	19 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	34	8	.810	_
Phoenix	23	18	.561	10 1/2
Golden State	13	31	.295	22
L.A. Clippers	10	32	.238	24
Sacramento	10	34	.227	25

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 116, New York 110
Miami 103, Orlando 97
New Jersey 99, Memphis 88
Milwaukee 106, Sacramento 104
Cleveland 102, Utah 97
Portland 100, Washington 87

BOB HOPE CHRYSLER CLASSIC SCORES

LA QUINTA, California (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, a $5.1 million U.S. PGA Tour event at four par-72 courses; 6,930-yard PGA West (Palmer course), 6,924-yard PGA West (Nicklaus course), 7,017-yard Bermuda Dunes CC, 7,403-yard Silver Rock:

Fourth Round

Steve Stricker	65-67-61-62	255
Pat Perez	61-63-67-67	258
Robert Garrigus	67-65-64-66	262
Bubba Watson	62-69-68-63	262
Vaughn Taylor	63-67-64-68	262
John Merrick	68-65-67-63	263
Chris Stroud	65-63-67-69	264
Webb Simpson	68-66-64-66	264
Richard S. Johnson	63-65-67-69	264
Rich Beem	66-65-65-68	264
Tim Clark	66-69-63-66	264
D.J. Trahan	65-67-65-68	265
David Berganio, Jr.	63-64-68-70	265
Chris Couch	67-63-69-66	265
Tom Pernice, Jr.	65-63-68-69	265
Mathew Goggin	66-70-62-67	265
Mike Weir	62-70-67-66	265
John Mallinger	66-67-65-68	266
Jason Dufner	63-65-67-71	266
David Mathis	66-66-69-65	266
John Senden	67-70-65-64	266
Bo Van Pelt	66-65-68-67	266
Scott McCarron	66-68-63-69	266
Bill Lunde	67-68-62-69	266
Casey Wittenberg	69-66-64-68	267
Kevin Sutherland	64-67-67-69	267
Ryan Palmer	70-65-66-66	267
Scott Piercy	66-66-70-65	267
Charley Hoffman	72-66-64-65	267
Charlie Wi	68-67-61-71	267
John Huston	69-70-64-64	267
Chris DiMarco	64-68-69-66	267
Jason Bohn	66-70-65-67	268
Steve Marino	65-69-64-70	268
Lucas Glover	65-68-68-67	268
Ryuji Imada	67-65-69-67	268
Briny Baird	63-63-70-72	268
David Toms	68-65-68-67	268
Chez Reavie	66-66-68-69	269
Woody Austin	66-68-68-67	269
Brad Adamonis	67-62-71-69	269
Dean Wilson	67-71-66-65	269
Peter Lonard	65-67-68-69	269
Rick Price	64-70-66-69	269
Brian Gay	65-70-72-63	270
Heath Slocum	65-67-73-65	270
Bill Haas	68-68-67-67	270
Justin Leonard	72-67-63-68	270
Jerry Kelly	66-71-65-68	270
Chad Campbell	66-71-68-65	270
Jeff Klauk	67-67-67-69	270
Colt Knost	69-68-70-63	270
Kirk Triplett	67-69-69-65	270
Stephen Ames	71-63-70-66	270
Ken Duke	68-68-64-71	271
Steve Lowery	67-65-71-68	271
Cliff Kresge	68-63-67-73	271
Glen Day	65-68-71-67	271
Martin Laird	67-68-68-68	271
Fred Couples	68-72-64-68	272
Joe Ogilvie	70-73-67-62	272
Nicholas Thompson	66-70-68-68	272
Nick Watney	66-71-72-63	272
Dustin Johnson	68-71-67-66	272
Ben Crane	63-70-70-69	272
Bob Estes	66-69-66-71	272
Brendon de Jonge	67-70-65-70	272
Michael Letzig	66-68-68-71	273
Joe Durant	73-66-65-69	273
Alex Cejka	68-67-68-70	273
Cameron Beckman	68-67-70-68	273
Tim Petrovic	68-69-65-71	273
Michael Allen	68-71-66-68	273
Matt Kuchar	66-67-71-69	273

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

DCCA	11	0
CPA	10	1
Freedom Air	8	1
No Zone	8	2
Legislature	8	4
Joeten Motors	7	3
Beach Boys	6	3
Docomo	6	4
POI	5	4
DLNR	5	5
DEQ/CRM	5	5
P & S	4	4
Law & Order	3	7
PSS	3	6
CUC	3	7
CHC	3	7
PIC	2	7
Customs	2	9
Mayors	1	11
Hopwood	0	10

Women's Division

NMC	7	1
DCCA	3	3
Finance	3	4
CUC	3	4
CHC	1	5

The Week in Sports

Winter Festival of Runs takes center stage

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The week's biggest sports event was undoubtedly the 2009 Winter Festival of Runs.

The festival, which featured the grueling 42.195-km marathon, 21.079-km half marathon, and 10K races, had hundreds of Japanese runners challenging Saipan bets.

It allowed runners-tourists and CNMI residents alike to once again enjoy cruising the island's scenic spots from the picturesque Beach Road to Marpi early morning.

At the finish line at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park, Saipan resident Mamiko Oshima-Berger raised her arms in triumph, as she defended her women's division title.

Oshima-Berger had a record-breaking run for a back-to-back title in the women's marathon. She finished the race that started and ended at Micro Beach in three hours, 22 minutes, 45 seconds breaking her 2008 time of 3:51:58.

Oshima-Berger outraced Guam's Noemi Neipert (3:35:35) and Japan's Satomi Yahata (3:37:06).

In the men's division, 28-year-old Izuru Nakashima was the first finisher timing in at 3:04:44. Two other Japanese runners completed the Top 3, namely Kenichi Tanaka (3:04:49) and Ryuichi Yoshida.

Another Saipan resident—Mieko Carey—made the island proud when she won the women's division of the half marathon clocking in at 1:34:54.

Carey prevailed over Japan's Megumi Shoji (1:40:00) and Sayuri Yuyama (1:41:48) to improve from her sixth place finish in 2008.

In the men's division, Jack Kabiriel almost made it 2-0 for Saipan runners in the half marathon when he finished second to Masami Iwamoto.

Kabiriel recorded 1:30:00, less than two minutes behind Iwamoto, who timed in at 1:28:25. Atsushi Yoshimura clocked in at 1:30:28 for third place.

Saipan runners were perfect in the 10K race with youth runner Matt Mancao and veteran Noriko Jim winning the men's and women's division titles.

Mancao completed the shortest race of the day in 40:36 to beat fellow Saipan runners Steve Pixley (42:01) and Yoshi Suzuki (43:24).

Jim clocked in at 41:30 outracing Kaori Teramoto (48:03) and Naoko Urakami (49:18).

Over at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield, DCEPT 6 nailed back-to-back titles in the Customs Goodwill Slowpitch Softball Tournament.

After beating Faja in the inaugural tournament last year, DCEPT 6 thwarted NMC We Are You in this year's event for a successful title defense.

A walk off homer from leftfielder Juan Iguel lifted DCEPT to a 3-2 finals triumph against NMC.

Still in softball, defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs remained the lone unbeaten team in the men's division of the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League.

An 18-3 rout of the Commonwealth Health Center gave DCCA its 10th win in as many games.

Keeping pace with DCCA is Commonwealth Ports Authority, which improved to a 10-1 record last week after a 21-9 win over the Mayor's Office.

In golf, Mike Cruz ended an eight-year drought claiming the 2008 Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year title.

Cruz took the 2008 title after tallying a net score of 141 in two rounds, six strokes ahead of runner-up and Senate President Pete Reyes (147).

It was his third overall Golfer of the Year plum, following similar victories in the 1997 and 2000 editions of the event.

In basketball, the middle school division of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League kicked off with Grace Christian Academy drubbing Mt. Carmel School, 32-12.

In darts, the Saipan Electronic Darts Association concluded its 2008 season with an awards banquet held at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

SEDA cited individuals and teams that stood out in last season's Masters League, A League, Tuesday B, Thursday B, C League, Ladies, and the Bud Cup.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Half marathon winner Mieko Carey, left, poses with back-to-back marathon winner Mamiko Oshima-Berger.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Half marathon participant Brad Ruszala celebrates as he nears the finish line.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A police patrol car escorts a half marathon participant near the finish line at the American Memorial Park.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ
A Mt. Carmel School cagebelle dribbles past Grace Christian Academy defenders during their first game in the COPSSA caging Thursday at the MCS Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players of Tuesday B League third placer Primos Payday pose for a group during the awards banquet for SEDA tournament at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players of DCEPT 6 pose for a group photo after winning the Customs Goodwill Slowpitch Softball Tournament for the second straight time.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mike Cruz hoists the 2008 Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year trophy.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of Oleai D-52's show their runner-up trophies in the Ladies division of the SEDA tournament.

Heat end slide against Magic, 103-97

Mario Chalmers wasn't happy when Jameer Nelson pumped his fist after swishing a late 3-pointer that capped a huge comeback by the Orlando Magic. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Winter Festival of Runs takes center stage

The week's biggest sports event was undoubtedly the 2009 Winter Festival of Runs. 27

Sweep for Guam fighters

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

All fighters from Guam won against their respective foes from Saipan in the Rites of Passage VI: Conviction with Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu posting the quickest win of the night over Maitai "The Charger" Charley in the main event.

Urquizu won via technical knockout after only 11 seconds in the first round of their three-round scheduled lightweight division (150lbs) match, stunning a full house crowd at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort Saturday night.

The more experienced Urquizu of Fight To Win decked Charley with a solid right hook to the chin, sending the Saipan fighter half-conscious for several minutes.

Referee Jason Tarkong immediately stopped the fight, as Charley tried to bring himself up but looked groggy and sat at his corner.

Seeing the bout was over, Urquizu immediately went to Charley and embraced him to show sportsmanship, as the 26-year-old power puncher collected his 13th win in 17 fights.

Charley, the third fighter out of Marianas Elite to fall that night, absorbed his fourth defeat in eight bouts.

Urquizu was surprised that the fight ended so quickly saying he expected it to be a hard one.

"But I was really going for a kill. I

See SWEEP on Page 26

TRENCH TECH

Guam's Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu, left, shows the true spirit of sportsmanship, as he hugs Maitai "The Charger" Charley after knocking the Saipan fighter down with a powerful right hook to the chin in just 11 seconds of the first round of their main event bout in the Rites of Passage VI: Conviction at the jampacked Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort Saturday night. Looking on is referee Jason Tarkong.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ, JR.

SBA hoping to send bigger team to Asian Inter-City bowling tilt

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Bowling Association president Jerry Tan is eyeing to have a bigger Saipan delegation to the 23rd Asian Inter City Tenpin Bowling Championships later this year.

Tan during the SBA's awards banquet for the 2008 season held at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe announced that Guam will be hosting the Inter-City tournament and this will allow the CNMI to send more bowlers to the annual tournament.

Tan

"I am hoping to send more bowlers including a women's team in this year's Inter-City tournament," said Tan, who acknowledged that financial constraints forced SBA to field only a men's team in the Inter-City tournament in Macau last year.

"But this year with our neighbor, Guam, hosting the tournament, it will be easier to send a full team (men's and women's) to the Inter-City. Despite the difficulties were are experiencing right now, I am confident we will find ways to bring many bowlers to Guam," he added.

Last season, only four male bowl-

See SBA on Page 26

LG Twins pin hope on 2 Olympians

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

With two Olympians and a new infielder in their lineup, the team manager of one of Korea's professional baseball teams sees a brighter prospect this season for the LG Twins, who are on Saipan for a month-long training camp.

"I can see a better team compared to last year. Our new players are very aggressive. Pitching was our biggest problem and we hope to make up this time. We're here to improve that aspect," Kim said.

See LG on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The LG Twins warm up for their training session at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield Friday.

MIGS leads rain-halted match vs. IT&E

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MIGS and IT& E's bids for a second win in the Inaugural 2008 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League will have to wait for another day, as their Friday night duel at the Garapan Basketball Court was suspended due to rain.

MIGS was leading the game-halted match, 78-72, with 6:47 left in the fourth quarter and with IT&E's Brendon Talania at the 15-foot line going for his second free throw.

Talania and Olaitiman combined for 14 first quarter points to give IT&E a 26-21 lead after 10 minutes of play.

IT&E kept the lead at halftime, 47-43, as Talania and Olaitiman drew contributions from their five other teammates.

But MIGS grabbed the upperhand at the end of the third period, 67-65, with JR Concepcion and John Hugos on the firing end combining for 13 of their team's 23 markers in that canto.

MIGS continued to lead in the fourth period, as it held IT&E to three field goals with more than three minutes gone by in the final canto.

Before the game was suspended, IT&E had scored only seven points with Bernard Montano making six and Talania hitting his first free throw.

MIGS' Bonbon Cadagat had already nailed five markers in the fourth period, while Larry Palero had tallied three, and Mel Capalad, and Jay Norita had added two apiece.

Organizers will announce the resumption of the match later.

Twelve teams are vying for the championship of the inaugural caging. The list includes Dollar

See MIGS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MIGS' Larry Palero challenges IT&E defenders during their rain-suspended game in the Navy Hill caging Friday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.